

Home Guard revived with 4,500 volunteers

By Henry Stainhope, Defence Correspondent

Kissinger's wife accused of assault

Mrs Nancy Kissinger, the wife of Dr Henry Kissinger, faces a charge of physically attacking a woman who allegedly insulted the former United States Secretary of State (Christopher Thomas) writes from New York.

A warrant for Mrs Kissinger's arrest was issued on Tuesday when she failed to appear in court at Newark, New Jersey to answer charges filed by Mrs Ellen Kaplan, of New York.

Court authorities said the incident happened last month when the couple were waiting at Newark for a flight to Boston, where Dr Kissinger had heart surgery.

"Apparently some remarks were directed at the Kissingers—or, rather, there was a personal slur at Dr Kissinger—by a demonstrator in a nuclear group. Nancy Kissinger took offence and grabbed at the throat of the woman in the heat of the moment," an airport spokesman said.

Royal pictures condemned

The Press Council has condemned *The Sun* and the *Daily Star* for publishing photographs of the Princess of Wales sunbathing on a beach in the Bahamas. The council said the pictures were a "gross intrusion" into the personal privacy of the Princess.

Oil price rise accord urged

Professor Sir Douglas Hogg, a senior economics adviser to the Prime Minister, said that the West should try to reach some understanding with OPEC to allow a steady annual increase in the real price of oil. Page 15

Betting levy ruling today

The Home Secretary is expected to rule today on how much bookmakers must pay to the National Betting Levy Board from April. He is likely to decide on a figure well below the £24.4m sought by the board, while increasing this year's £17.6m levy. Page 2

Postal profits

Postal profits could show a profit of £80m this year, but Government cash curbs are threatening investment. Mr Ron Dearing, the Post Office chairman, told a Parliamentary Select Committee. Page 15

Villa optimistic

Aston Villa have an excellent chance of reaching the semi-finals of the European Cup after holding Dynamo Kiev to a goalless draw at Simferopol in the quarter-final first leg. Page 20

Bonni scandal

West Germany is facing its third public scandal in a month, with the revelations of Bonni's former spy master about the activities of BND, the intelligence service. Mr Richard Nixon is alleged to have been one of its targets. Page 8

Kissinger and the oil crisis

The oil price rises in 1973 contributed directly to the energy crisis and caused irrevocable changes throughout the world. The postwar rise in prosperity was brought to a halt, virtually overnight. Henry Kissinger, the former American Secretary of State, recalls in detail what he calls "one of the most pivotal events of the century." Page 12

Preview goes to the fair

The Burlington House and Chelsea antiques fairs, which make next week an important one for collectors, are featured in tomorrow's Preview, the 16-page weekly guide to entertainment and the arts. Page 14

Leader page 15

Letters: Mr South African cricket; India; P. G. Anger, and others' travel disorders, from Dr J. R. Thomas; Mr Thorpe and Assembly, from Dr Gordon McCrae; and others. Leading articles: Central America; IRA. Obituary, page 14. M Gabriel Arouet, Mr John Hare

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Pay action question for nurses

More than half Britain's 450,000 nurses are to be asked what forms of industrial action they would be prepared to take if the Government next week makes a pay offer in line with its four per cent guidelines for public service workers (David Felton writes).

The National Union of Public Employees, which represents almost 200,000 nurses, has suggested a five-point programme of action which amounts to a work to rule but the Confederation of Health Service Employees, with 145,000 nursing members, is asking for suggestions from its members.

The Royal College of Nursing, with 190,000 members, has already said that it will not take industrial action. Nurses' leaders are due to hear the Government's offer on Tuesday and some union officials believe that they could be faced with an offer which gives preferential treatment to the higher grades.

Trade silence on milk fears

Neither the Milk Marketing Board nor the Dairy Trade Federation would comment yesterday on a recommendation which goes before Gloucestershire County Council's education committee later this month, to reject subsidised school milk on health grounds (John Young writes).

They may be reluctant to stimulate further controversy over the alleged links from milk-drinking to obesity and coronary disease.

Under a scheme introduced last autumn education authorities get an EEC subsidy of 8.78p a pint if they contribute a quarter of the costs.

Dismissal of rail drivers upheld

Mr Max Wallace, aged 23, of Eastleigh, Hampshire, one of the train drivers at the centre of dispute over alleged "fixing" by his colleagues yesterday lost his appeal against dismissal.

Mr Wallace and Mr Geoffrey Leighton, also aged 23, of Bassett Green, Southampton, were dismissed after they admitted charges including drinking on duty, absence from shifts and driving a passenger train in excess of a 90 mph speed limit.

Search for coal under N Sea

The National Coal Board is to search for more coal under the North Sea. Its £3.5m programme, starting next month, will plot forward reserves in the undersea coalfield that stretches from north Northumberland to south Durham.

Four boreholes will be drilled between four miles and seven miles off the coast from Wearmouth colliery. The pit's 2,345 men are already mining coal up to six miles out from the main shaft.

Unionist rivals in poll today

The voters of Belfast, South to go to the polls today in a by-election which is seen as an important test of which of the two major parties represents unionist opinion (Richard Ford writes).

Both the Official Unionists and the brasher Democratic Unionists, led by the Rev Ian Paisley, argue that they are the rightful heirs to the Rev Robert Bradford, the former MP, who was murdered by the IRA last year.

Anger over dear Welsh water

The Government was told yesterday that the issue of water rates in Wales could cause political instability.

Mr Donald Anderson, Labour MP for Swansea, East, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee on Welsh Affairs, told Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales: "There is considerable anger in Wales over the fact that the average charge to domestic consumers is 14 per cent higher than any other authority, in spite of the high level of rainfall in Wales".

APT breaks down again

British Rail's 120 mph advanced passenger train, which will not have had the joy of running from London to Glasgow when it comes into operation in May, broke down twice during a test run on the line on Monday night. British Rail revealed yesterday.

The problem was caused by a fault in the mechanism linking the train to overhead powerlines. The train broke down near Lancaster and then 60 miles away at Penrith, Cumbria.

Murder charge

Martin Edward Beale, aged 49, of a fixed address, was charged last night with the murder of Rowan Grace Emily Beale, aged two. The Devon and Cornwall police said he would appear before Kingsbridge magistrates today.

Gatwick-US link

The United States airline, TWA, is to operate a daily service to New York from Gatwick airport, London, from April 26. There are already three daily flights from Heathrow airport to New York.

Lawyer in birth drug case to be investigated

By Lucy Hodges

forming senior officers and members about such cases was at fault.

Mr Driver said: "In the main we accept the judge's criticisms. The report does record that there were serious delays in handling inquiries by correspondence by our solicitors. It also records that they did not keep officers informed about the case."

"The regional health authority is extremely disturbed about this and is making inquiries into the actions of the legal adviser in handling the case."

The legal adviser to the South West Thames regional health authority is Mr Neil Yates. It was disclosed last night that he had been disciplined by the authority in the case of Mrs Kathleen Day, who was awarded £25,000 damages in January 1981.

Mr Justice Follett described the conduct of the authority or those acting for it as "nothing short of scandalous".

The two men conducting the inquiry, Judge Coplestone-Boughby, a circuit judge and member of the Sutton, Merton and Wandsworth area health authority, and Mr Peter Lamb, member of the region, found that the system for in-

vestigation was "a shambles". Mrs Day had had two hearings on other health authority documents or reply to letters, and ignored court orders.

The health authorities said

yesterday that it was still not clear how Mrs Brown was paralysed but it happened in the "topping up" of the epidural injection. The Central Midwives Board is examining what happened because both midwives concerned, neither of whom held the necessary certificate of competence, were found to have breached the rules of procedure.

The trial judge said it took the authorities two and a half years to admit liability. All attempts to elicit humane reactions or minimum courtesies from the authority failed.

"The solicitor informed us more generally that it was not his practice and had not been the practice of his predecessor to call on client authorities to call on client authorities about the conduct or progress of cases to which they were parties," said the report.

Secret box : Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with the traditional case in which he will carry his Budget speech to the Commons on Tuesday. The wooden box, covered with scarlet leather, was first used in Gladstone's day

SDP Budget proposals, page 5



Mrs Carol Brown: Paralysed after epidural

MP angry over cuts for police

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

As the West Midlands Police Authority decided to cut police overtime to save money yesterday, Mr Jim Knight, Conservative MP for Birmingham, Edgbaston, condemned planned spending standards of law and order.

A reduction of £1.5m next year in overtime spending is expected to mean fewer officers outside football grounds to prevent rowdyism, and to police the 60 marches and demonstrations a year in the West Midlands.

The reduction is part of a £2.2m cuts package which the West Midlands County Council is likely to approve on Monday.

Mrs Knight said yesterday she had asked the police how the cuts would affect standards of policing on the streets.

"If I suspect or fear, this will lead to a fall in the standard, I shall apply to see the Home Secretary."

Mr Edwin Shore, Labour chairman of the police authority, said last night: "Perhaps she will have more luck than I did with Mr Whitelaw and Mr Heseltine".

The cuts are bound to fuel criticism of the Government's law and order policies. Al-

ready Mrs Knight, who sits on the influential home affairs select committee, has spoken out about a dismal failure to restore standards of law and order.

She told local Conservatives on Friday that although the Government had built up the strongest police force ever and could not be held solely to blame for the high crime rate: "I am convinced that far far more has to be done".

Chairman chosen for liaison group

A Roman Catholic priest was yesterday elected chairman of Britain's first police and community liaison group for the sensitive area of Lambeth, south London (Richard Evans writes).

Father Charles Walker, aged 58, the Archbishop of Southwark's chaplain to the West Indian community in south London for eight years, was appointed after two potential candidates declined to be nominated.

The formation of the group, which will attempt to deal with police relations in Brixton, is a direct result of a recommendation contained in Lord Scarman's report into last April's riots and follows two recent preparatory meetings at the Home Office.

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, has been anxious to give the new liaison group established quickly before the first anniversary of the Brixton troubles. He is under increasing pressure to introduce a statutory system of consultation as proposed by Lord Scarman.

Father Walker is likely to receive chairman until October while the group attempts to establish itself. He told the 50 people who elected him: "I hope we all feel we are comrades in this undertaking. I am a bit fearful of the weight of this task."

Afterwards, he added: "We want to bring the police and the community much closer together."

Cash blow for racing chiefs

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, will today announce his adjudication on the dispute between bookmakers and the Horse Race Betting Levy Board over the size of the levy for the year beginning April 1.

Mr Whitelaw is expected to tell Sir Timothy Kitson, chairman of the all-party Commons racing committee, that next year's levy will be considerably less than the £24.4m sought by the board. But he will announce some increase on this year's £17.6m, which the bookmakers say should be unchanged.

The disagreement between the board and the bookmakers was referred to Mr Whitelaw last autumn. The board's original request for a levy scheme which would have yielded £26.5m was rejected outright by the bookmakers' committee. The board then reduced its requirements to £24.4m, but the bookmakers still insisted that the rates should be unchanged.

Mr Whitelaw appointed independent assessors to examine the board's turnover and profits, and has just completed his study of their report. He is expected to announce his decision in a parliamentary written reply.

There is much sympathy for the board in the all-party racing committee. Sir Timothy

yesterday tabled a Commons motion drawing attention to the fact that the board had been asked to pay £40,000 for the preparation of the bookmakers' case to be submitted to Mr Whitelaw.

Sir Timothy said he hoped the board would get an answer close to what it was asking for, because it was seeking to provide a secure future for the levy board (Michael Seely writes).

Mr Whitelaw probably feels that if the levy were increased too much, the law of diminishing returns would continue to operate with detrimental effect on all sides of the industry. The increase is likely to be in the region of £2.5m.

There is no doubt that the racing industry will be disappointed. The 1982 prize money scheme will probably go ahead as planned, but there will be doubts over increases for 1983.

The board says it needs more money to boost efforts to safeguard the Grand National at Aintree. That issue was discussed at a racing committee meeting attended by Lord Plummer, the levy board chairman, at the Commons on Tuesday.

Members agreed to ask the National Heritage Memorial Fund to consider helping to save the National. Sir Timothy said: "One usually associates the fund with works of art and the like, but we felt one could reasonably claim that the Grand National is an important part of the heritage".

The authorities were also eager to devote more funds to veterinary research into virus infections, but until full details of Mr Whitelaw's decision are available, it is impossible to say how much these projects will be affected.

Papers are condemned over Princess photographs

The Press Council condemns The Sun and the Daily Star today for bringing discredit on the press by publishing pictures of the Princess of Wales sunbathing in a bikini in the Bahamas.

The council says that the surreptitious taking of the long-range pictures of the Princess when she was five months pregnant was a gross intrusion into her personal privacy. It adds: "There was no legitimate public interest to excuse that intrusion".

A leading article in today's issue of The Sun repeats the charge of causing distress to the Royal Family, but says the pictures saw nothing wrong in being seen by other holidaymakers on the beach.

The council says that the surreptitious taking of the long-range pictures of the Princess of Wales on a beach when she was five months pregnant and wearing a bikini was a gross intrusion into her personal privacy.

The Press Council says that its declaration on privacy lays down that "publication of information about people's private lives or concerns without their consent is only permissible if a legitimate public interest overrides their right to privacy".

FIVE ON HIJACKING CHARGE

By Michael Horsnell

The five Tanzanians appeared in court yesterday as the victims of the Air Tanzania Boeing 737 hijacking flew home from Stansted Airport, Essex, to an official reception.

On December 8, last year, national newspaper and television editors were invited to Buckingham Palace where they were specifically asked not to intrude on the privacy of the Princess of Wales.

The appeal was sympathetically received and widely supported by editors. The Daily Star said the Queen and Prince Charles were concerned at the exposure being put on the Princess by photographers and were anxious she should be free to enjoy some private life.

"The Sun," whose editor, Mr Kelvin MacKenzie, was the only national newspaper editor who did not accept the Palace invitation, headed its report: "Leave our Princess Di alone say the Palace". It quoted the Queen's press secretary, Mr Michael Shea, as saying the Princess felt totally betrayed.

In the Press Council's view, the surreptitious taking of the long-range pictures of the Princess of Wales on a beach when she was five months pregnant and wearing a bikini was a gross intrusion into her personal privacy.

The Press Council says that its declaration on privacy lays down that "publication of information about people's private lives or concerns without their consent is only permissible if a legitimate public interest overrides their right to privacy".

All but the aircraft's co-pilot, 21-year-old Mohamed Ali Abdallah, aged 25, a tyre fitter, and Tahib Ahmed, aged 21, a student, and Mohammed Tahib Ahmed, aged 21, also a

student, were released yesterday.

Mr Wanume Kibbi, for the defendants made no objection to the remand in custody of the five men. Mr James Sabini, chairman of the magistrates, granted legal aid subject to documentation.

The men, who were wearing anoraks and running shoes had the charges translated for them.

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The men,

SDP support slips as the Jenkins campaign opens

By Julian Heslop, Political Editor

A marked fall in support for the Social Democrat and Liberal Alliance in the past week, indicated in opinion polls as confirmed by an analysis published today of voters' behaviour in local elections.

The downturn in the fortunes of the alliance coincides with the effective opening of the campaign for the parliamentary seat of Glasgow Hillhead, for which the first was issued yesterday. Mr Roy Jenkins, the prominent of the founder-leaders of the SDP and the only one who is not an MP, is contesting the seat for the alliance. The Socialists and the Liberals both see his success in returning a Conservative majority of 2,002 (or 5.6 per cent) as crucial to their future.

But whereas before Christmas the alliance was winning two out of every three local by-elections at ratio fell to ten out of 20 in January, and to four out of 19 in the three weeks following the first rush of support.

The analysis, published in this week's *New Statesman*, is the work of the paper's political editor, Mr Peter Kellner. Comparing the votes cast in February in 16 elections where there were three-party contests with the results in 16 similar seats in November, Mr Kellner has recorded an eleven-point drop from 49 per cent to 38 per cent, in support for the alliance.

£4,000m plan to cut unemployment

□ The SDP yesterday proposed a £4,000m injection into the economy in its next week's Budget and said it would have the same effect on reducing unemployment as the Labour Party's suggested £9,000m boost (Philip Webster writes).

Toll of winter

Roads falling into ruin, motor lobby says

By Michael Daly, Transport Correspondent

Thousands of miles of roads are crumbling after one of the worst winters this century, according to a study today.

Unless councils' maintenance spending is allowed to rise many minor roads will fall into complete disrepair and will have to be closed. Others will become more dangerous, especially to pedestrians and cyclists, the British Road Federation says in a report to the Government.

Road maintenance has been cut by 19 per cent in real terms over a decade in which traffic has grown by 14 per cent and there is now an unacceptable level of neglect and risk, the federation says. It adds that to return to standards of the early 1970s, which were regarded as inadequate then, an extra £100m needs to be spent both this year and next, the equivalent of less than 3 per cent of this year's £6,000m "surplus" of road tax over road expenditure.

In the height of this winter's snow and frost, some councils spent £500,000 a week on gritting and clearance; money from severely pruned budgets which was not therefore available for road improvements. The federation is even more concerned about the undermining of roads by frost and ice that breaks up

£1m appeal to save woodlands

By Ronald Faux

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) yesterday launched a £1m appeal to protect woodlands. Birds depend on woodland and the RSPB said that about half Britain's ancient forests had disappeared since the war with serious repercussions for the birds living in them.

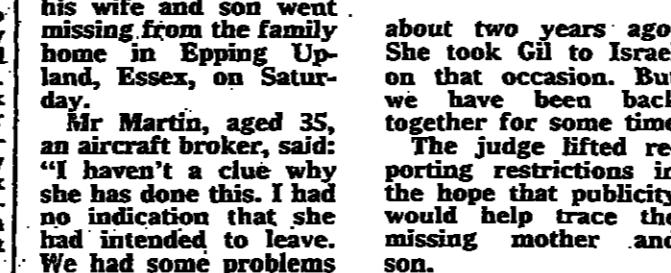
According to the most elegant logic, if things go on as they are, the last British hardwood will stand to the ground in the year 2020. If that projection has a ring of the eighteenth century fears that the growth of horse-drawn traffic in London could lead to the city disappearing under a heap of manure, Mr John Davy, deputy chief reserve officer for the society, said that as much woodland had been lost in the last 40 years as was felled in the previous 400.

"It is a very serious position," he said. "About half of the 204 species breeding in Britain depend on woodland."

The RSPB hopes that its Woodland Birds Survival Campaign will raise money to buy tracts of natural woodland that can be protected as nature reserves where rarer species can breed safely. The society is negotiating to acquire 400 acres of the finest oak forest in Southeast England, which supports a fine community of nightingales, hawfinches, redstarts and sparrowhawks.

All types of old woodland are at risk. Birchwoods have disappeared as fuel for log burning stoves. The ancient caledonian pine forest has dwindled to about 22,000 acres. Oak woodland on the hillsides of the West Country, Wales, Cumbria and the Pennines has been greatly reduced because grazing sheep were allowed to eat the seedling trees.

The association's central ethical committee and board of science is to decide its membership and terms of reference, and will report back to the next council meeting at the beginning of May.



about two years ago. She took Gil to Israel on that occasion. But we have been back together for some time

Mr Martin, aged 35, an aircraft broker, said:

"I haven't a clue why she has done this. I had no indication that she had intended to leave. We had some problems

Violence in schools: 3 Children bored to disruption

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

About one million children in England and Wales, or one in 10 pupils, have marked emotional or behavioural problems, according to research by the Schools Council. A tiny, but growing, minority are considered sufficiently disturbed or disruptive to need special treatment away from "normal" children. The great majority remain in ordinary schools. Who are they?

A recent survey by HM Inspectorate for Schools (HMI) of short-term special behaviour units for disruptive pupils found a wide variety of children. Some were violent towards their teachers, their peers or both; others were quiet and withdrawn.

Some were clearly emotionally disturbed, others clearly not. Many had histories of petty delinquency and anti-social behaviour in and out of school, but a fair proportion had been in trouble only when in school.

A High Court judge in London has ruled that the boy should be returned immediately to his father, Mr Arnold Martin, (above) who raised the alarm when his wife and son went missing from the family home in Epping, Essex, on Saturday.

The most common features found among the pupils in the units were that they had experienced serious difficulties in their relationships with adults, particularly teachers; they tended to have unsatisfactory home backgrounds; and they were overwhelmingly boys between the ages of 14 and 16.

In general, they were not among the least able. They tended rather to be just below average in ability, but not so limited as to be singled out for special help in remedial groups.

That was the group that the HMI identified.

"Children believe that one way a school shows its respect for a particular class is to give them a strong teacher, they regard a weak, ineffective teacher as a deadly insult.

Their first move is therefore to test the teacher with some relatively trivial disturbance to see how he or she reacts.

"The kind of teacher they

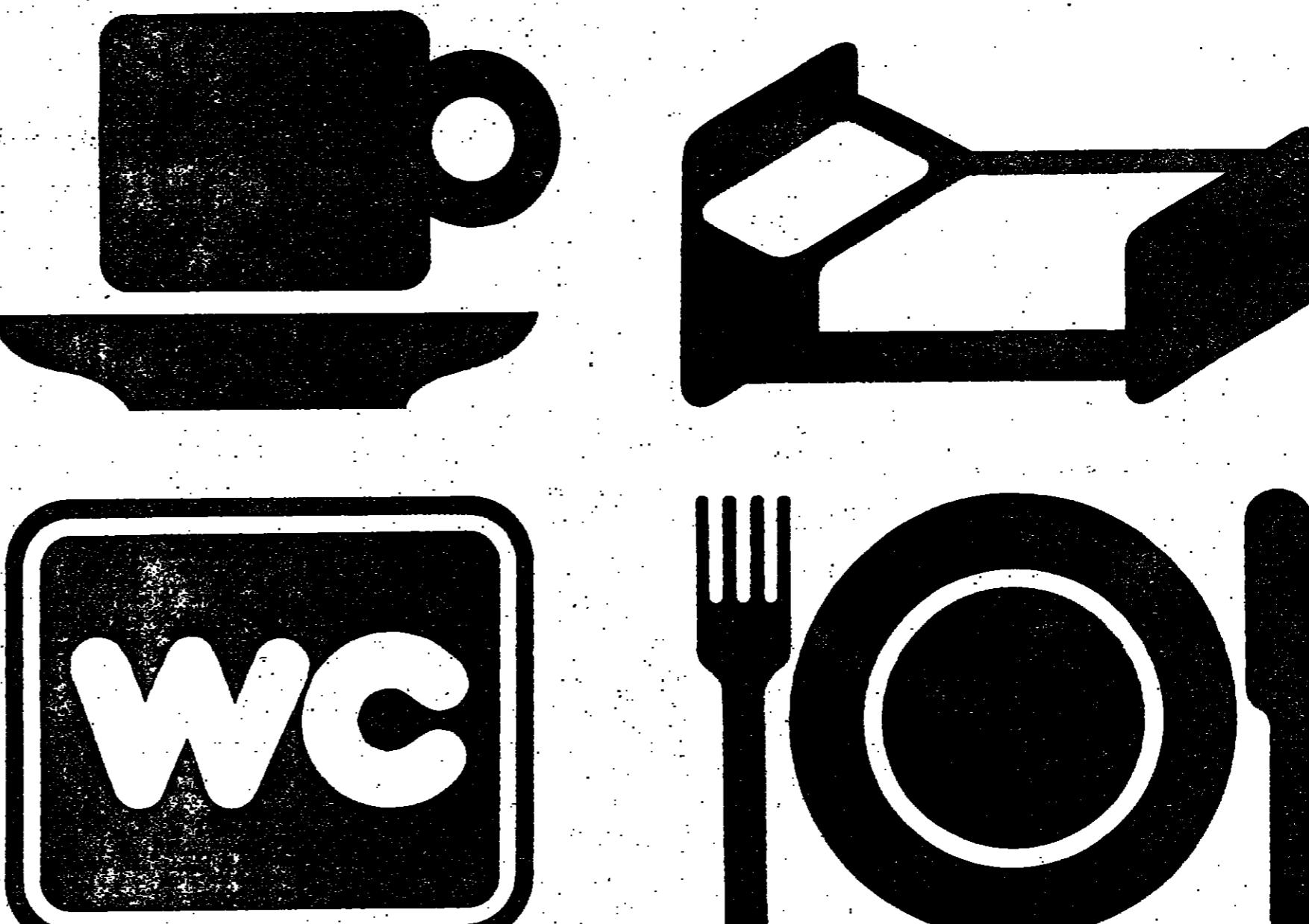
respect most is an almost comic book character — grey hair, tweed jacket, pipe-smoking, rather old-fashioned. It's pretty dangerous to appear dressed more or less as one of the kids."

Dr William Parry-Jones, consultant psychiatrist in charge of the Highfield family and adolescent unit at the Warneford Hospital, Oxford, who has been conducting research in the way teachers handle disruptive pupils, also believes that pupils prefer firm directive teachers.

"We found that the teacher who you or I may think is democratic, understanding and sympathetic in his dealings with children may not be seen as such by the pupil. At home and at school, children want adults who mean business, who do not try to blur the generation gap, who lay down explicit rules, and who explain what they are doing. I am not for a moment advocating old-fashioned, authoritarian discipline, but children see lack of control as offensive."

Dr Parry-Jones is reluctant to provide a profile of "the disruptive child". Many factors are involved, he says, and much more research is required to discover how important each is. But of one thing he, like so many others, is increasingly convinced: that schools and teachers can have a great influence for better or for worse on a child's behaviour, whatever that child's home background.

Where can you do all this without stopping?



These signs should be familiar enough to anyone who's driven on Britain's roads. And very welcome they are too. But each time you feel like a bite to eat or need to stop for a rest, you're lengthening the time of your journey. And as far as business drivers are concerned, time is money.

On the train you can make use of these facilities without adding to your journey time. For example, each weekday around 300 Inter-City trains have a Travellers Fare Restaurant Car where you can enjoy excellent meals including our Great British Breakfast.

There are considerable direct cost savings to be made too. Compare a £10 or £15 sleeper with the cost of a night in a hotel.

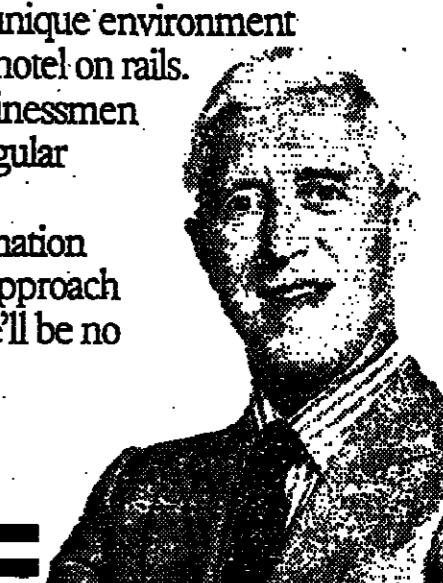
There are other benefits of train travel for which no road symbols exist. Like space to stretch your legs, ergonomically designed seats (cramp and back ache are

just different forms of "car sickness"), air conditioning on many trains, superb views, a table to work at (try working in the car — or rather don't) and freedom from motorway jams.

And at over 70 Inter-City stations you can pick up a Godfrey Davis hire car to complete the journey door-to-door.

The train offers businessmen a unique environment to work and relax in, almost a luxury hotel on rails. Which, presumably, is why even businessmen with prestigious company cars are regular business rail travellers.

By train you arrive at your destination refreshed and alert. And when you approach meetings in that frame of mind there'll be no stopping you.



This is the age of the train

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Sadat trial evidence cut short

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, March 3

Cairo.—The military court trying 24 Muslims accused of assassinating President Sadat ordered the termination of defence evidence and said there would be a verdict on Saturday. The move was bitterly condemned by Defence lawyers as the prelude to a "mass slaughter". (Our Correspondent writes).

The trial started on November 21 amid official comments that it would end in one month. But the defence said recently it was attempting to put Sadat's policies on trial to justify his assassination. Lawyers claimed they had completed the defence of only 10 accused.

Mr Abdel Ramadan, head of the 35-man defence team appeared agitated and angry after the court ruling. "The 24 are human beings entitled to a fair and legal trial. We needed at least 40 more sessions to complete our defence," he added.

Senators deal blow to busing

Washington.—The Senate has approved by 57 votes to 37 the most far-reaching anti-busing legislation ever to be put before either house of Congress. The Bill would virtually outlaw busing as a means of desegregating public schools by prohibiting federal courts from ordering students to be bused more than five miles or 15 minutes from their homes. (Nicholas Ashford writes).

Conservatives have hailed the vote as a big victory. However, the legislation still has to be approved by the House of Representatives where it is expected to meet tough opposition.

Yugoslavs shot in Brussels

Brussels.—Two Yugoslavs were killed and three injured in a shooting at a Yugoslav community centre here. One of the injured was seriously ill.

According to witnesses, a man entered the centre armed with a sub-machine gun and opened fire before escaping.

Stalking upsets Mrs Onassis

New York.—Mrs Jacqueline Onassis, who has complained to a federal judge about the "relentless stalking and constant surveillance" of her and her children by a celebrity photographer. In 1975, a judge ordered the photographer, Mr Ronald Galella, to stay 25ft away from Mrs Onassis and 30ft from her children. Ruling that Galella was getting too close, the court decided yesterday on another hearing to determine penalties.

UN gets yellow rain evidence

New York.—The United States has submitted to the United Nations a detailed account of independent medical analysis of blood samples taken from victims of an alleged yellow rain onslaught in Cambodia (Zoriana Pyasawski writes). It admits, however, that the evidence is largely circumstantial.

In its letter, Washington appears more interested in providing information that could benefit its own investigation than with passing categorical judgment.

Token strike by French doctors

Paris.—For the second time in three months, several associations of hospital doctors called their members out on strike in protest against the plans of M. Jack Paliot, the Communist Minister of Health, to abolish private hospital beds (Charles Harcourt writes).

The "strike" was mostly a token one. Doctors cared for in-patients and emergencies but not out-patients. About 1,000 doctors in white coats marched on the Ministry of Health and handed in a petition.

Guerrillas raze health clinics

Guatemala City.—Clinics in western Guatemala have been burnt down by guerrillas fighting to overthrow the Government. Senior Roqueño Recinos, the Health Minister, said yesterday.

Police said only four of the 31 health centres in Huehuetenango province had not been attacked by guerrillas.

Poles to reduce trade links with the West

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, March 3

Poland is preparing a trade union organization, and the more extreme hardliners. Secondly, the emphasis on economic dependence on the West, according to an official who accompanied General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the Polish leader, to Moscow.

The official, who wanted to remain anonymous, said he had been discussing in Moscow.

First, there was Soviet assistance to relieve the immediate effects of the West's limited sanctions against Warsaw. Second, there would be Comecon assistance to increase the use of industrial capacity in Poland and ease unemployment there. Finally, long-term plans for completely changing the focus of Poland's trade with the world were discussed in the talks with President Brezhnev and other Soviet leaders.

This last point, the official said, represented "a turning point", indicating that it meant a much deeper relationship with the Eastern bloc. Meanwhile, the Soviet Union was giving assistance in hard currency to help Poland "through these troubled times". He refused to say, however, whether detailed questions of financing Poland's \$28,000m (£15,000m) debt with the West were discussed at the summit.

Asked whether the Soviet Union would help to pay off outstanding interest on its 1981 debts to the West, the official would say only: "Poland is going to pay off its debts. The methods and dates of this repayment are dependent on outside factors determined by the complicated political and international conditions."

The Polish leader also promised that the Communist Party would be strengthened and that Poland would remain a socialist state. Suggesting one area of disagreement, however, it said nothing about Poland's internal problems, the release of detainees or any future role for a trade union movement.

Washington.—Reacting to sharp European criticism, the Reagan Administration has decided to avoid for the moment a confrontation with its allies over the controversial pipeline which would bring Russian natural gas to western Europe. White House officials have disclosed (Bailey Morris writes).

Mr David Gergen, the White House Director of Communications, said President Reagan would not take any action on the pipeline until after a special American team was sent to Europe in the next two weeks to consult senior government officials.

Madrid: The Polish Government is planning the imminent release of hundreds of arrested citizens, Mr Wodzimierz Konarski, a Polish Foreign Ministry official, said here today (Harry Debellius writes).

But the reformists have found two sources of consolation. The first, though it is scant encouragement, is a favourable reference to the ninth emergency party congress last summer. This congress attempted to trim away the extremes of party policy, edging out radical reformers who sympathized with the Solidarity, the free world.

His greetings were echoed by President Yitzhak Navon, who was on the airport to welcome him, together with Mr Menahem Begin, the Prime Minister, still confined to a wheelchair by his three-month-old hip injury. Mr Navon called the French President a "true friend, faithful to his word, faithful to his principles".

Mr Konarski, who heads his country's delegation at the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, revealed the impending releases at a mass conference in connexion with the Madrid conference. He said more than 3,000 Poles were still detained.

Muzzle on the press

Journalists resort to oblique attacks

From Our Own Correspondent, Warsaw, March 3

Although critical Polish journalists are being weeded out of the country's newspapers (the process is known as "verification") some reporters and columnists have found ways of slipping through oblique attacks in the Pax group have been given back their press by the martial law authorities.

The latest example comes in a copy of the Gdańsk daily *Dziennik Bałtycki* that has just reached the capital. One article reviews a pop record by the British singer Amanda Lear, employing exactly the terms used to justify martial law in the political columns. Thus Miss Lear's record is described as an antidote to extremism, a way of bringing the population back to reality and so on.

All good clean fun. But the first letter of each paragraph spells out the words *WRONA Skona* — literally, "the crow will die". But the first four letters are the initials for the Military Council for National Salvation, meaning that the writer's intent is to say the "Military Council shall perish", an unpopular sentiment with the authorities.

Editors on the newspaper say that the writer, a freelance reviewer, cited the name of the editor as an accidental one. But no, he was no longer reviewing for *Dziennik Bałtycki*.

The use of the press for political purposes is becoming more and more important as the Government increasingly commits itself to "public consultation" on such matters as price rises and trade union reform. However, the control of newspapers and especially television is such that little critical information can appear.

Mr Janusz Zablocki, head of the Neo-Znak Catholic grouping in Parliament, hopes that he will be able to allow some of the columns of his group's newspaper to be



President Mitterrand arriving at Ben-Gurion airport where he was met by President Yitzhak Navon and wheelchair-bound Mr Begin, the prime minister.

Israel hails Mitterrand as true friend

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, March 3

The unfamiliar tones of the *Marseillaise* ringing from radio and television sets throughout Israel today heralded a new era in Franco-Israeli relations as François Mitterrand became the first French president to pay an official visit since the foundation of the state in 1949.

Mitterrand quietly displayed his reluctance to be swayed by Arab and French criticism of a twice-postponed visit. Speaking briefly at the airport, he expressed the hope that his 48-hour visit would revive the friendship between the French and Israeli people, and render it both durable and irreversible.

His greetings were echoed by President Yitzhak Navon, who was on the airport to welcome him, together with Mr Menahem Begin, the Prime Minister, still confined to a wheelchair by his three-month-old hip injury. Mr Navon called the French President a "true friend, faithful to his word, faithful to his principles".

It is perhaps coincidental that François Mitterrand should be the first head of the French republic to visit Israel," the *Jerusalem Post* said. "For, of all recent French presidents he has undoubtedly shown the keenest interest in the history of the Jewish people and the deepest sympathy for the state. The Jews have established in their ancestral homeland" the paper said.

EEC takes France to court

From Ian Murray, Brussels, March 3

The European Commission today decided to take France to the European Court over its plans to introduce a series of national aids for farmers, worth about £364m. They were announced by the French Government shortly before Christmas.

They included aid for young farmers. About a third of the package announced at the time, involving disaster help for areas hit by bad weather, has been allowed by the Commission.

It was the first package for farmers put together by the Socialist Government and it had a strong emphasis on helping smaller farmers and narrowing the income gap between large and small producers. This was opposed by the main French farming union at the time.

It was also attacked by Mr Peter Walker, the British Agricultural Minister, who told last month's Council meeting that it represented "a ridiculous perversion of the whole trading position" of the Community.

The aid meant that French farmers were subsidized nationally in a way which led to unfair competition with British farmers.

It was one of the arguments he used in objecting to the 9 per cent farm price increase proposed by the European Commission.

The European Commission last year failed to bring France before the court in time to stop it paying aids worth about £400m. This time the Commission has acted more promptly in an attempt to stop distribution of the money, due to begin at the end of this month.

In one Warsaw suburb, a wall was set aside for graffiti (during the Solidarity era) to discourage children from scrawling on buildings. Last week *Wrona Skona* appeared in metre-high letters on the wall. Police arrived within the hour and the following morning the wall was painted black.

Two days ago, this time in white, within the same red Graffiti, *Wrona Skona* appeared. The Military Council will perish in any case. Now a police lorry is parked next to the wall, day and night.

Soviet space advance

Laser gun feared by 1990

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, March 3

The Pentagon has inadvertently revealed that the Soviet Union will have an orbital space complex capable of launching laser beam attacks on ground, sea and air targets operational by 1990.

This prediction was first made by Mr Richard Delauer, the Defence Under-Secretary for Research and Engineering, during testimony at a closed-door session of the House Armed Services Committee last week. It was then repeated by Mr Ken Kramer, a member of the House of Representatives, during a public committee hearing soon afterwards where it was recorded by a reporter from the *Army Times*, an unofficial publication dealing with military news.

According to Mr Kramer's statement, as published in the *Army Times*, Mr Delauer told the committee: "We expect a large, permanent, manned Soviet orbital space complex to be operational around 1990... capable of effectively attacking ground, sea and air targets."

This forecast represents a substantial advance over previous official assessments of Soviet preparations for space warfare. Until now, it was widely believed that Soviet efforts were mainly concentrated on developing space-based lasers to attack American satellites rather than ground targets.

This is the conclusion of Nato experts who have made a detailed analysis of the

Soviet defence effort which, while it had remained in proportion to the gross domestic product at the beginning of the 1970s, rose to a rate of 12 to 14 per cent by the end of the decade.

Approximately one-fifth of the expenditure was on research, development, trials and evaluation, while over one-third was devoted to procurement and construction of military installations. In 1980, this latter figure amounted to almost one-half of the total expenditure, while only one-third went on operating expenses such as personnel costs, use and maintenance.

America and the Soviet Union agreed in 1967 not to use outer space for nuclear or other weapons of mass destruction. But both nations have been working for years on space-based weapons which could be used to destroy nuclear-armed missiles before they reach their target or destroy the other side's communications and detection satellites.

The Soviet Union is understood to have made particularly big strides in this field in recent years.

Intercontinental rocket forces accounted for more than 10 per cent of the total Soviet military expenditure.

A reduction of military expenditure may appear desirable in the long run, the experts conclude, but they consider it unlikely that any savings would have an appreciable influence on the continued growth before the end of the 1980s. The level of expenditure continues to be very high and allows for ample modernization programmes in the Soviet armed forces.

Research and development showed the highest rate of increase, closely followed by procurement of new equipment. This, the experts point out, is confirmed by the qualitative improvement of the Soviet armed forces.

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The powers of town coun-

The Reagan wagons defended in Cheyenne

From Michael Hanley, Los Angeles, March 3

A child gave President Reagan a cowboy hat in Cheyenne, Wyoming, yesterday and he put it on. It was an appropriate gesture. He had come to lead the defence of his budget.

Presidents do not often come to Cheyenne. The last to do so was Kennedy in September, 1963, and before that Truman in 1948. So Cheyenne was flattered. Albuquerque, New Mexico, another Western frontier town was given a flying visit and a presidential budget speech.

The wagon that the President was most concerned to defend was labelled "fundamentals". He said "My commitment to cutting taxes and rebuilding our defences is every bit as strong today as it was the day I took office. There will be no retreat in these areas."

He noted that many legislators are attempting (after his Mid-Western challenge to his critics to "put up or shut up") to devise alternate programmes to his own.

But he declared: "This Administration is willing to consider any comprehensive programme as long as it does not compromise the fundamentals of our tax cut programme.

"The American peoples have been promised tax relief. Last year the Congress passed tax relief, and as long as I have any in the matter no one is going to take it away. Incentive must be returned to those who work, save and invest."

Speaking at a rally in support of Senator Harrison Schmitt of New Mexico, a former astronaut, the President also set himself against cutting back on another fundamental — his defence programme. "We can't afford to compromise on national defence needs".

Mr Reagan warned his Cheyenne audience: "We dare not reduce our defence budget. The bulk of the increase is not going for fancy new planes or elaborate weapon systems. Most of the money is going in dangerous short supply."

"I don't think Americans want their armed forces held together with chewing gum and baling wire, unable to move for want of spare parts."

The President's budget includes an increase of defence spending of \$34,000m (£18,000m). At the same time he is proposing to maintain tax cuts passed last year which in the next 12 months will amount to \$31,400m. The resulting budget deficit is being seized by both Republicans and Democratic critics of the President, anxious to parade their financial responsibility. He derided particularly the Democrats as "kind of like hearing a mugger in Central Park complain about crime in the streets".

He pointed out to his Wyoming audience: "We don't have a budget deficit because we don't tax enough. We have a budget deficit because we spend too much". He liked the remark so much — he repeated it in Albuquerque. But he was quite firm in asserting: "As much as I detest the idea of deficits, as President I must accept a large deficit if that is what it takes to buy peace for the rest of the century".

The President's stunning success last year in forcing his budget through a sometimes reluctant Congress was in no small part due to the strength of his appeal over the heads of the legislature to the American people. Yesterday's speeches marked a similar attempt to claim the support of the West, the outdoors, self-reliant part of the country where he himself feels most at home.

He derided the "hand-wringers" who paralysed Washington.

"You don't have to spend much time in Washington to appreciate the prophetic vision of the man who designed the streets", he said "they go round in circles".

"I have a message for the pessimists of the Potomac. The rest of the country still believes in America and in tomorrow."

cis are fairly limited, and even if the PFP took over Johannesburg it would not be able to change the basic legislation underpinning apartheid, such as the Group Areas Act, which prohibits people of different race from occupying the same residential area.

The councils have a degree of autonomy, however, in determining how public amenities are to be used.

A strong showing by the PFP today could be used by Opposition MPs as evidence that white opinion is ready for the bolder reforms of the apartheid system which the Government, having said its right wing, is now in theory free to pursue. This argument will lose some of its force, however, if the HNP also does well.

Polls test mood of white reform

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg, March 5

The hardest part of a business trip should be the business. Not the trip.

If you've ever landed in America feeling like you just swam the Atlantic, it's time you flew Pan Am Clipper® Class.

Because no-one does more than Pan Am to deliver the business traveller in great shape to do business.

Pan Am Privileges.

At Heathrow we quickly relieve you of your baggage (First Class allowance, by the way) at our special Clipper Class check in. We board you separately with the First Class passengers.

We put you in your own separate section of the 747 on generously reclining seats that are scientifically-designed for long distance comfort. Set in pairs, so you are never more than one seat away from the aisle.

Pan Am Service.

We treat you to complimentary cocktails and comfortable cushioned headsets, the better to appreciate our stereo music programme and feature films. And we serve you from what must be the choicest menu across the Atlantic.

Little wonder then that by the time the movie comes round, many passengers are so relaxed that their eyelids close with the opening titles. A process which our seat, we admit, does nothing to discourage.

What is truly remarkable is that Clipper Class fares are often actually lower than business class fares on other airlines.

Pan Am's Destinations.

You can fly Clipper Class non-stop from London to no less than seven US cities. To New York, Washington D.C., Miami, Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle. At the Pan Am Worldport® in New York, you can catch same-day, non-stop connections to another 12 US destinations. Including Dallas/Fort Worth, New Orleans and Detroit.

If your onward flight doesn't have Clipper Class Service, your Clipper Class ticket automatically entitles you to travel First Class.

So next time business takes you to the States, take Pan Am Clipper Class.

You may sleep through the movie, but you'll be wide awake when you arrive.

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Reagan told to insist on Salvador talks

From Moshin Ali, Washington, March 3

The House of Representatives has overwhelmingly approved a non-binding resolution urging President Reagan to press for "unconditional discussions" among the main political factions in El Salvador. The House vote yesterday was 396 in favour and 116 against.

The resolution said that the discussions were necessary in order to guarantee a safe and stable environment for an open democratic election.

Meanwhile, Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, yesterday in testimony to the House foreign affairs committee declared that there was irrefutable evidence that leftist guerrillas in El Salvador were under external control.

He did not give details of the evidence but said it had been presented to congressional intelligence committees within the past week. Answering questions, Mr Haig said: "The operations of guerrilla forces inside El Salvador are controlled from external command."

The Reagan Administration has previously said that Caribbean countries were confronted by a growing threat from Cuba and its new-found ally Nicaragua into El Salvador was again approaching high levels.

But Mr Haig's statement yesterday was one of the strongest official allegations yet that the insurgency

Leading article, page 13

Go-between role denied by general

From Stephen Taylor
Salisbury, March 3

Lieutenant-General Peter Walls, the former Zimbabwe Army Commander, today flatly denied through his lawyers here that he had arranged meetings between representatives of the South African Government and Mr Joshua Nkomo, the former coalition partner.

The statement comes after recent allegations in Salisbury that General Walls had arranged meetings while Mr Nkomo was allegedly plotting a coup to overthrow Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister.

The former commander said that he had only met Mr Nkomo in connexion with the integration of his guerrilla supporters in the Army. He added: "These were at the instance of Mr Mugabe in his capacity as Minister of Defence, to whom he had reported back."

In the past fortnight, Mr Mugabe and a senior minister have claimed that General Walls had organized two meetings between Mr Nkomo and South African military men who had dismissed his appeals for help from Pretoria in staging a coup. The minister also claimed that the general was recruiting saboteurs in South Africa for activities here.

General Walls has lived in South Africa since being barred from Zimbabwe after admitting in an interview that he had considered leading a coup to oust Mr Mugabe.

In his statement he denied planning or taking part in any activities detrimental to the Government of Zimbabwe

Carrington speaks for five nations

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, March 3

The Western contact group is working to overcome what it regards as a misunderstanding of its proposals for a Namibian constitution. Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, said here today at the end of his African tour.

Addressing a press conference after meeting President Moi, the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, he said the five-nation contact group was doing its best to make sure that its proposals — including a double-vote system — were properly understood.

He felt the proposals, which resemble the present West German electoral system, had been wrongly criticized as over complicated. A paper was now being prepared to answer the objections of African states.

Besides being entertained to lunch today by President Moi, Lord Carrington attended a ceremony at which the Kenyan President opened new premises for the British Council here. The Queen sent a message of good wishes on an occasion which, she said, symbolized the warm and friendly relationship between Britain and Kenya.

Earlier Lord Carrington had signed an exchange of letters with Mr Arthur Magugu, the Kenyan Finance Minister, for the supply of 5,000 tons of wheat under the British food aid programme. It will be sold on the Kenyan market and the proceeds will be used to finance agreed development projects.

Soaring crime is blamed on American affluence

From Christopher Thomas, New York, March 3

Every city in the United States has experienced a surge in crime in the past 30 years, according to a study conducted for the Department of Justice.

It points to a surprising similarity in the rate of increase in cities that are different in location, size and minority population, and plays down the role of race and poverty in crime rates.

The North-Western University's Centre for Urban Affairs and Policy Research, near Chicago, spent three and a half years studying crime trends between 1948 and 1978 in every city with a population of more than 50,000, a total of 396 cities.

Dr Herbert Jacob and Dr Robert Lineberry wrote: "The growth of crime appears to be the result of fundamental changes in the lifestyles of Americans. It is the result of greater affluence which made more valuable goods available for theft, a condition aggravated by the greater propensity of Americans to leave goods unguarded in their homes and expose themselves to dangerous

Savak torture 'revived'

From Our Correspondent, Geneva, March 3

Tortures developed by Savak, the Iranian secret police of the Shah's regime, are being used on detainees in Evin prison, Tehran, according to a report submitted today to the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

"Three years ago... no one expected the old Savak apparatus would be revived so soon or that the Pahlavi

From Paul Ellman
San Francisco Gotera,
El Salvador, March 3

When Mr Deane Hinton, the United States Ambassador to El Salvador, visited this beleaguered provincial capital recently, he was confronted by a weeping British nun who begged him to intervene to halt the slaughter of local civilians by the security forces.

Mr Hinton, who has attracted criticism from opponents of United States policy in El Salvador, has publicly stated that he believes that the human rights situation in the country is improving. He advised President Reagan last month to certify that this was the case, as demanded by Congress as a condition for continuing aid.

However, the nun's account of her meeting with the envoy suggests that Mr Hinton in private is pessimistic about prospects of bringing about a real improvement in the behaviour of the Salvadorean security forces towards civilians.

"I think we made it abundantly clear that there's been no progress around here," said Sister Anselm, a Swansea-born member of the Order of the Sisters of St Clare, who has worked in El Salvador for almost 10 years.

She requested a meeting with Mr Hinton after discovering the bodies of three women parishioners who had been detained by the National Guard after attending Ash Wednesday Mass.

Mr Hinton had come to

San Francisco Gotera, the

walked 10 miles along moun-

tain trails from their home in

the convent. Sister Jean, from Port Talbot, Wales, and

Sister Phyllis, from Florida

had been invited, with

three Irish Franciscan

priests, to meet Mr Hinton,

but had declined originally

because they did not want to

be associated with what they

regarded as a public relations

exercise.

"But, I decided, in view of

what happened, that it would

be better to talk with the

ambassador and ask him if

the United States couldn't do

something. It really was a

concrete example to present

to him of something that

goes on all the time here,"

Sister Anselm said. Accompanied by Sister Phyllis, she spent five minutes with Mr Hinton in a small room in the convent. "Mr Hinton said this was the sort of thing he was hearing all the time but that it was difficult for him. He reminded us that it had taken a year before the alleged killers of four American nuns were charged.

Class favourite: President Duarte with schoolchildren in La Libertad during the campaign.

He told us he was putting pressure on the Salvadorean military all the time, but that these people think differently," the nun said, adding that she had wept throughout the interview.

Asked to comment on this account of the meeting and the ambassador's apparently pessimistic assessment of prospects for ending excesses against the civilian population, a spokesman for the United States embassy in San Salvador said that the ambassador regarded the meeting as private.

Mr Hinton was appointed ambassador to El Salvador by President Reagan last year after the dismissal of his predecessor, Mr Robert White.

■ San Salvador: The ruling junta has launched a campaign to persuade people that parliamentary elections this month could help to end the war (Reuters reports).

President Duarte last night dismissed left-wing opposition charges that the present state of siege and continuing violence meant that fair elections for a constituent assembly could not be held as scheduled on March 28.

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Tragedy in El Salvador

Weeping nun tells of mutilations in the field



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Yates: romantic Twenties snob

Dornford Yates
By A. J. Smithers
(Hodder and Stoughton, £8.95)

"The wanton breeze", wrote the author of *Berry and Gold* in 1920, "caught in the maze of twisted pine-needles filtered its chastened way, a pensive organism, learned to draw grace lines from the boughs and reverently voice the air of sanctity. The trees were silent, the birds smothered incense, breathing high ritual and redolent of pious mystery. No circumstance of worship was unobserved. With one content bird, bees hummed and the wind made sound. The precious pall of silence lay like a phantom cloud, unruffled. Nature was on her knees. The car fled on."

There is something very gamey about the prose-poems of Cecil William Mercer, alias Dornford Yates (1885-1960). They were inserted regularly inside the racy and exciting comic stories he wrote for the *Windsor* magazine, and were composed by his first biographer now tells us, with infinite care and love, in the language of William Shakespeare. It is true that every syllable takes its place within the whole, but it is undeniable that the fresh familiar scene of 1920 (characteristically undefined by Yates, who preferred the *froissé* to the specific) smells distinctly well-used today. Landscape, religion and sex are inspirationally locked in foetal embrace.

A. J. Smithers, military biographer and historian, Yates-addict and collector for many years, seems to think that this kind of thing has not dated, and that only the presence of words like "Nazis" ties Yates's writing to the years between the two wars. But absolutely everything about it does so, and to maintain otherwise is to remove much of the historic charm through which he might possibly attract new readers today.

He was perhaps the first popular poet of the motor car, certainly of the Rolls-Royce, in joyous flight down deserted roads, and, in the heroic adolescence of the telephone, he was master of

those most beloved of running gags, the wrong number and the crossed line. He writes about stockings, pyjamas and chocolates in a manner both erotic and merely flirtatious, but always entirely English and of its time. To distract post-war readers from the evident misery of England's moral decline, he rarely used a modern word where an old one would clang more suggestively and he drew upon archaic language much as the spec builders of the day turned the craftsmanship of artists between Morris and Lutyens into the mass-produced Tudorbethan allusions of Metro-land.

Much of the fancy prose, Smithers points out, comes from the patterned speech of the Bar, to which Mercer apprenticed himself between taking a Third in Jurisprudence at Oxford and volunteering promptly for the Front in 1914. One reason he got only a Third was that he had been President of OUDS: "Not many people were likely to outshine him," Smithers comments, "largely because few were interested enough to want to try": a moment of biographer's desperation, there, suggesting that Mercer was dull. He was not, but not even a biography as decent and sympathetic as this could disguise that he was an absolute pain.

Born into a family scandal of suicide following a conviction for fraud, he grew up pitifully obsessed with bitterness, disappointment and fear of failure. Anti-semitic, he also distasted Germans and Americans, and detested the French, though deigning to live at Pau for thirty years because of the rheumatism that had invalided him out of the war (another humiliation). He did not much care for the English, come to that, save the well-bred, witty and brave creatures he invented and sustained through more than thirty books from *The Brother of Daphne* (1914) to *Berry and I Look Back in 1958*.

For Mercer was a snob, prey to the false values



attendant on insecurity and ambition; he beat defrocked young servants and shouted at bank clerks. He married a dancer from *Chu Chin Chow*. Oscar Asche was one of his few friends — neglected her for his work, and was surprised when she attracted reptilian locals; when they divorced in 1932. When not conversing with his second wife Elizabeth, whom he adored, he talked to an antique picture-clock, leaving precise instructions for its dismemberment in the will that also cut out his only child: Richard, another "disappointment".

To write of Bill Mercer Dornford Yates at all in detail is difficult. Both wives are dead: Mercer conceals much of his own identity in that of his heroes; there seem to be few letters surviving; papers and publishers records were lost in the war. Smithers describes each book with care, but biographically there is such a shortage of first-hand material that he digresses,

Michael Ratcliffe

from the particular to the general wherever possible, producing an effect at once of long-windedness combined with short breath. He frames this portrait of an artist "on the outside looking in" with a perspective of England and Englishness in the twentieth century entirely at one with the subject's own, but which might be thought by modern readers to lie somewhat to the right of Sir Herbert Gosses.

There is no denying the defensive gallantry and discretion with which he has performed his task, but he is writing for the converted, and with an author as idiosyncratic as Dornford Yates this is no longer enough. "Colonel" Wyndham, however, may have been kind enough to tell me that he liked the man. No sentence could define more clearly the pathos of his achievement or the uphill nature of the task.

Michael Ratcliffe

Rebecca on the last year of Victoria's reign

1900
By Rebecca West
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £10)

It is not often, especially in reviewing non-fiction, that one discovers an absorption that is fresh, original and invigorating. It is true that Dame Rebecca West has been employing hers for more than 70 years, but like most people, I suspect, I know her more for her reputation than for her actual writing; and not having read *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* for a couple of decades myself, I came to her latest book, 1900, as to the work of a dazzlingly precocious newcomer.

People have been writing books about particular years

of history at least since Philip Guedalla, but Dame Rebecca is perhaps the first who, choosing a year getting on for a century before the date of publication, can write of it from personal experience. It is true that she was only six at the turn of the century, but still she can recall at least the impressions and rumours of the time: the death of Gladstone, Mafeking, the Dreyfus Affair, the presence in the world of Debussy and Ravel, Renoir and Toulouse-Lautrec, Henry James, Proust, and Maxim Gorky, and all the events, crazes, discoveries and disillusionments that were gestating, occurring or past their prime in the last year of Queen Victoria's reign.

Of course she fills in the details from hindsight, and enlarges upon them from the immense stock of miscellaneous learning she has amassed since then, but still in many ways this is the view of an English child growing up in Richmond in that portentous year. It is an Anglocentric view, tinged always with compassion, shot through with merriment, slightly bitter sometimes, especially about men, and in some respects vividly simplistic: America looks wholly innocent, through these

young eyes of *fin-de-siècle* France looks unthinkingly worldly, England astonishingly full-blown, while in Africa, Asia and Australasia nothing much seems to be happening at all, unless you count the Boer War or the Boxer Rising.

Not that it is slight work. Though it is presented album-style it is far more than just frothy entertainment. Dame Rebecca's choices of emphasis are certainly arbitrary, but they are never footloose: she is conscious always of the future that was to lurch out of the year 1900, and everything she writes about, Colette to Milner, Gibson Girls to anarchists, is given unity by this underlying preoccupation, and by her own spiky and anachronistic integrity.

The book is full of gossipy quirks, too, but they then are almost always a joy. How delightful to suppose that Edward VII and Alice Keppel enjoyed each other's company because they would both really like to have been civil servants! How fascinating to learn that the Tsar's anti-Semitism was born when a mad Japanese waiter banged him on the head with a tin tray, and that the German physicist Max Born was distinctly "Secretary to the Colonies".

For this book is like a new taste for the unprepared reviewer, it is like the revival of an old one too — like rediscovering some elderly Rolls-Royce perhaps, whose steering may be a little erratic by today's standards, whose suspension is oddly bouncy, but whose elegant black bonnet out in front, with its silver lady riding high, makes you feel you were a perfect fool ever to trade it in.

Jan Morris

named Thurleigh who struck a wager at the Reform Club; Hugh McPhail, an out-of-work miner who won the Powderkeg sprint; Kate Sheridan, who danced at Minsky's and is soon the only girl in the race, down Mary-gate, the victim of strike-breaking bosses in Pennsylvania; Martinez, who is running for the future of his impoverished Mexican village; Flanagan himself, the Irish-American impecunario, who is staging the spectacular against political pressure from "the very top". And more. The best villains are an Aryan team from Nazi Germany, doped to the eyeballs by their swineish manager, von Molte.

Mr McNab has injected various additional contests along the way: a Highland Games, races against a prize-trotting stallion, a boxing bout, not to mention a walk-on appearance by Al Capone and a romantic interest of extraordinary coyness.

Confessions of a Homing Pigeon By Nicholas Meyer (Hodder & Stoughton, £7.95)

The race is as attractively simple a plot form as the whodunit or the romance, but despite one or two outstanding examples such as *Round the World in Eighty Days* it has never developed into what is popularly called a "genre". Difficult to sustain the suspense. One race much like another. And so

Tom McNab, a former athlete and Olympic coach, was script consultant on *Chariots of Fire*, an outstandingly successful cinematic adaptation of the race formula. Now in this first novel he has found even better raw material for a robust, uncomplicated old-fashioned yarn guaranteed to appeal to the boy in everyone.

During the depression there was evidently a mad marathon known at the time as "The Great Bunyon Derby". It began in Los Angeles and ended in New York. McNab has re-created this event, focusing on a small group of heroic athletes. There is the veteran "Doc" Cole, a former marathon runner and fairground huckster; an English Lord

Conrad, a retired racing driver; and the orphan George, sent to France to be looked after by his Uncle Fritz ("Uncle Fritz was what we call an alcoholic") but is reclaimed in due course by relations in

Chicago. George does not much care for life in Chicago and, so, aged 14, he decides to run away and find Uncle Fritz. This he accomplishes by stowing away on the Queen Mary in 1922. On board he loses his heart and his virginity, not to mention the final of the ping-pong competition. In France he finds Uncle Fritz, who is not at all well. The Girl from the Queen Mary has gone on to Verugia to learn Italian but they are reunited at the American Express office. It ends in tears.

Mr Meyer teeters skittishly on the divide between realism and fantasy, is almost always agreeable to read, occasionally very funny, and sometimes maudlin.

Jakov Lind's novella *Travels to the Enn* (Eyre Methuen, £6.50) starts off with an acknowledgement to "Our Master, Jonathan Swift". Despite this bad omen the book's first chapter, describing a grotesque "pleasure cruise" to Sarawak, is distinctly promising. Unfortunately the book is never the same after the shipwreck.

The islanders among whom our hero finds himself have luminous bottoms, testicles the size of tennis balls and fuzzy hair inhabited by holy birds. There is a lot of rather heavy-handed play with fantasy languages, moralities, military systems and employment figures before the narrator returns to the travel office in Baker Street where his dress began. A telling demonstration that Swiftian satire requires Swiftian powers of invention.

T. Coraghessan Boyle, an assistant Professor of English at the University of California, has written a

highlighted by witty walks

JAMES HADLEY CHASE

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can best be understood by close observation of the behaviour patterns of people who live in domestic groups, and in the ritual formalities of marriage.

Robert A. Hinde has written *Ethology*, which looks for answers to the question of why animals, or people, behave as they do. In *Religion* Leszek Kolakowski discusses the philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God. The three authors are masters in their fields, and their books are magisterial and useful introductions, though not always free from the jargon of the social sciences. We are prone to be surprised by this. It took physics at least a century to settle down into its familiar jargon. After these introductions one can go on to read bigger books in the subjects by the authors themselves, and even by St Paul.

Philip Howard

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

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CONCERTS

ENTERTAINMENT

THE ARTS

THE BARBICAN OPENS: John Russell Taylor views the first exhibition

Human survivors

Aftermath: France 1945-54

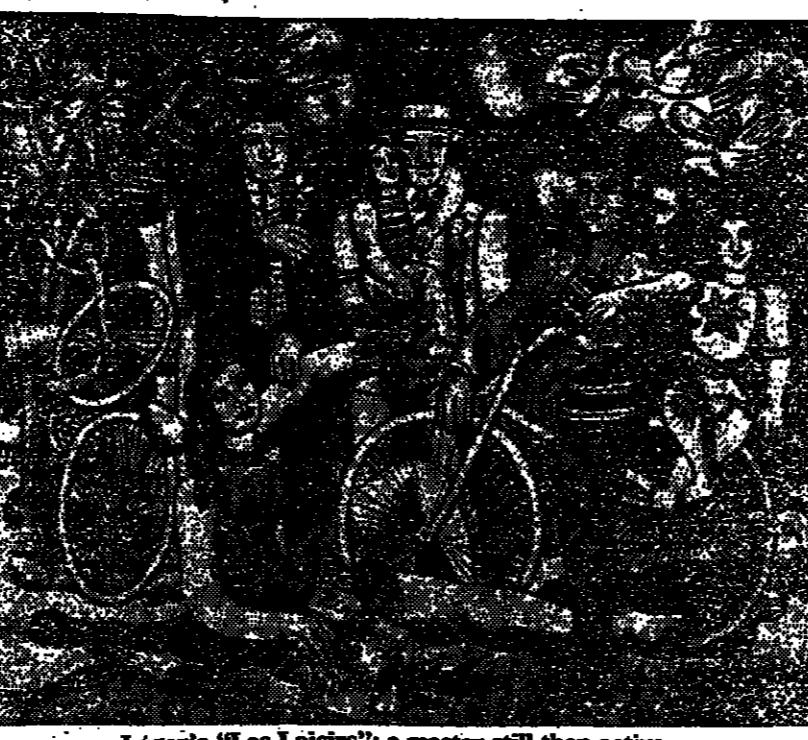
At Gallery

A comparison between last year's Barbican exhibition *Paris-Paris* and its offshoot *Aftermath*, the opening exhibition at the brand-new Barbican Centre gallery (until June 12) is very illuminating of what seems Paris and what goes, or is supposed to go, in London. For though the first announced intention was to bring over the *Paris-Paris* show, what finally emerges is now and very different show, with half a handful of pieces in common. The *Paris-Paris* show, though allegedly covering the period 1937-57, was mainly concerned with the postwar years, and in that with the central *Tour de Paris* and its progression towards its last moment of glory, and the abstract art of De Stael, Soutine, Manessier and others, just before the crown of world leadership in art was snatched by New York. Now all those abstract artists, though still names in France (and gradually coming from the shadowy side of fashion into the open), would mean little in Britain today, not to mention the famous British bias against the non-figurative. So instead the organisers of *Aftermath*, German Viator and Sarah Wilson (one French, one British you note), have turned away from the *École de Paris*, and in general, from the abstract, to concentrate instead on the survivors and the outsiders, most of whom were concerned one way and another with the great humanist, or at least human, theme.

Hence De Stael is represented by just one painting, a semi-abstract

called *La Vie dure* (which one suspect is there more for its title than anything else). Other abstractionists are quite absent, or dragged in somehow through connections with surrealism or some real or fancied use of the abstract as a sort of psychodrama in which human anguish, agony and horror (nothing cheery) are represented by abstractions because too painful to approach directly through representations. The argument is well, arguable, but it does not prevent the show itself from being thoroughly exciting and thought-provoking. We are taken carefully through from the generally unregarded French realists of the Thirties, people like André荒er and Francis Gruber, and shown what they were doing after the war. We are reminded that several great masters who never deserted representation completely — Picasso, Matisse, Braque, Léger, even Bonnard — were still active. And so to the real centre of this show: the Art Brut movement with its deliberate harking back to primitive art, child art and psychotic art, all in an attempt to find and define "new images of Man".

Dubuffet naturally figures prominently here, and it must be said that, represented by a few of his works (that may be the key, for in large numbers they become very monotonous), cummings placed in context like this, he has seldom looked better. Some strange anticipations are also turned up in an earth-relief painting by Zoltan Kemeny from as early as 1947, some astonishing paintings done by Stuart Gilbert in Dublin in the early Forties, which seem to relate to nothing anywhere around. And the



Léger's "Les Loisirs": a master still then active

sense of a group of disparate artists for the moment going the same way is strongly created.

The exhibition certainly does not show, or even claim to show, the one, central way of approaching art in the postwar decade, in Paris or anywhere else. Rather, it proposes a group of surprisingly accessible artists and attitudes to us for our consideration and, with any luck, enjoyment. The exercise is persuasive: the unfamiliar are related tellingly to the familiar — as usual, Picasso is the inclusive figure whom clues to everything else can

last be seen to have a context (he not least in the work of his writer-brother Pierre Klossowski). Matiieu's calligraphic action-painting is included with a couple of his more bearable early works, and even, at the other end of the spectrum, the dread Bernard Buffet, though mercifully not with emaciated blue clowns.

The gallery itself turns out, despite what must have been feared from published plans and projections, a rather pleasant, manageable space on two floors. This, it appears, is largely by dint of covering almost entirely the architect's original concept.

Another Country

Queen's

Do not be misled by Julian Mitchell's tide, as this brilliantly written study of English public school life in the 1930s relates directly to the old moles who are still coming up out of the English soil.

Another Country is about the self-governing hierarchy from prefects to fags which famously marks its survivors for life. It has much in common with the Army system of handing out crude disciplinarian duties to the Other Ranks; but Mr Mitchell concentrates with single-minded venom on the closed institution of his choice, leaving it to the spectator to make the connexion with other British authoritarian structures.

With the exception of a Walter Pater-quoting uncle illustrating what the system has done to the previous generations, the cast consists entirely of the boys. They represent every shade of moralism from total militaristic acceptance of the rules to structured political defiance. Plans of room, you might think, for any kind of boy to make his own terms with the silly old place; were it not for the fact that the first event in the play is the suicide of a boy due to be expelled for homosexuality.

This calamity is quite enough to generate a plot

Theatre

Venom on the institution

whose main business is to explore the frustrations, desires and hatreds of a miscellaneous collection of people who are receiving their basic training in the art of personal concealment. The instant effect of the death is to provoke a purge in the house in which the Head Prefect (a gentlemanly liberal) cracks, leaving the way open for the appalling Fowler (played by Michael Parkinson as a baby-faced Mussolini) to succeed him: a move that is finally frustrated also at the expense of the two characters you most want to assume control.

These are Bennett and Judd, who embody the two dominant forms of rebellion against the public school ethic. Bennett is a serious and unashamed homosexual, at first seen training binoculars on his beloved through the library window. Judd is an inflammable Marxist, driven mad by the incessant interruptions that prevent him from getting on with his chosen line of research. Very cunningly, Mr Mitchell introduces both of them as mere boys. Bennett, hair flapping over his eyes as he moans over his unattainable partner, seems merely to be going through a phase. Judd, shooting off about self-perpetuating oligarchies and playing the barrack-room lawyer to the officious Fowler, seems equally in the grip of adolescent bigotry.

As the play develops and the spectator becomes a temporary captive in its little world, so the characters become increasingly formidable. Judd may be a Stalinist, but you cannot fault his arguments against the school, or his incorruptible resistance to joining the officer class. Bennett occupies an even stronger position. To be a Communist in a fee-paying school for the rich is a joke. But homosexuality is no joke in that setting, and when Bennett is sentenced to a thrashing for sabotaging a Cadet Force parade (by a court of prefects ludicrously strutting round in OTC uniform), he escapes by insolently threatening to reveal a full list of his sex partners. In that furtive environment, there is no defence against someone who is prepared to spill the beans.

There have been some cast changes in Stuart Burge's production since it appeared at Greenwich; and one of these enables me to salute Kenneth Branagh (Judd) as a stunningly accomplished new actor, whose ideological rages, control of sulphurous parody, and moments of reluctant warmth are alone worth the price of the show. He has a magnificently febrile partner in Rupert Everett; and the production as a whole is an extraordinary triumph of juvenile casting. Bernard Culshaw's revolving sets reveal the cramped, seedy quarters within the baronial facade.

Irving Wardle

Interview: Roy Hudd

The image of Bud Flanagan

Roy Hudd's conversation is a blizzard of jokes, references to jokes and evangelistic fervour about the comedy tradition. He thrusts his face into yours, the better to convince you of the fabulous riches of music hall and of course, to try out the occasional new gag.

He has millions of gags, but his favourites are all timeless yet topical, anarchic yet relying on a common cultural fund. They tend to prove his credo — that comedy never changes, that there is nothing new behind the footlights and there never will be. Monty Python and the Goons are the descendants of Dan Leno and Grimaldi, while Hudd himself inherits the mantle of Max Miller and Bud Flanagan.

So it is only appropriate that from tonight he plays the latter at the Prince of Wales in *Underneath the Arches*, a biography of the team of Flanagan and Cheshire Allen. The show was evolved for the Chichester Festival by Patrick Garland and Brian Glanville, though it was Hudd himself who came up with the idea of using the original sketches to bear the narrative. And, mysteriously, it was Flanagan who first cast Hudd.

"I really have no idea why. I only met him casually two or three times. Really I knew his missus better — but don't tell Bud — and I was talking to her some time after he had died and she told me he had hoped one day I would play him." Perhaps Flanagan had detected within Hudd the obsessive fascination with variety and music hall which had been imprinted by early childhood trips to the theatre with his grandmother.

"My earliest memories are of a man in a great big floral

suit — Max Miller — then a man in a fur coat and a boater — that was Bud — and then of a panto at Croydon where the backcloth showed the road leading up to the castle. I could never understand why characters leaving the stage to go to the castle didn't actually go up that road."

Those images have inspired Hudd to become an expert on variety and music hall. The names, the gags and the songs pepper his conversation on almost any subject. But it is not scholarship; it is merely a celebratory identification with the way his genius soulmates survived in the business. "People are always getting deep about comedy. But it's simple for me. If it gets a laugh it's in, if it doesn't, it's out, however funny I think it is."

In the case of Flanagan the trick which lifted mere survival to real success was the rapid change of mood. In a sentence the audience's required response was switched from belly laugh to

If that quality, combined with Christopher Timothy's Cheshire Allen, succeeds as it did at Chichester, Hudd would like to be able to look forward to run off about a year at the Prince of Wales, his optimum time for keeping an interest in the part. He reckons the 18 months for which he played Fagin in *Oliver!* was just about six months too long. But live theatre is essential to him.

"I hate television. The

great thing is a live audience. In television the only kick-back is the money. In theatre it's the audience. The magic might all be over in one night, but life's like that."

Now Hudd looks set to become a kind of mandarin of comedy, a fast-talking, lapel-grabbing practical historian of its modes and vocabulary. He takes deep satisfaction from its changeless quality, as if that in itself were a joke at the expense of the idea that every gag has to new to get a laugh.

"The standard jokes come back again and again. I know a writer who heard that Liberace was retiring. He rang up in despair and asked what he should do with his chest of Liberace jokes. A while later he rang again and said it was all okay — he could use them all about Larry Grayson."

Yet the result, with all departments of the London Philharmonic Orchestra playing at their best, was rather splendid. This interpretation

gave an impression of wholeness, of steady evolution not found in all accounts of this score. All the same, I found the triangle as irritating as ever in the finale.

The orchestra was joined

by Sir Georg Solti

and the soloists were

Miss Buchanan and Thomas Allen.

Oddly enough, this is not the work that one tends to associate with Sir Georg, although he has recorded it twice. The performance, of one or two of the faster variations probably reflected modern orchestral virtuosity more than it did Brahms's intentions.

Yet the result, with all

departments of the London

Philharmonic Orchestra playing at their best, was rather

splendid. This interpretation

notwithstanding its march-like character, the loud

Concerts

RLPO/Janowski

Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool

Gone are the days when a

conductor spent twenty years with one orchestra, gradually bringing it to supreme virtuosity (much more than precision and agility) and teaching it to play the established repertory in a completely idiosyncratic way, not to be heard elsewhere, because he conducted nowhere else, nor did they play for another conductor. Karajan and Berlin

approach more closely than others to this ideal; elsewhere the "house style" is out of favour, and orchestras are lucky if their many guest conductors are half as

illuminating in rehearsal and

concert as the peripatetic

titular chief.

On Tuesday the Royal

Liverpool Philharmonic

Orchestra, the appointment

of Marek Janowski as their

principal conductor and artistic

adviser from September 1983,

in succession to David Atherton

who only assumed that

role two years ago. It is not

long enough for Atherton to

make his presence

beneficially felt, nor will

Janowski spend enough time

to impose his musical style

on the RLPO — conductors

nowadays are encouraged to travel the world.

The RLPO are lucky to get

Janowski: he did good work

at Dortmund, bringing an

impressive *Lulu* to Leeds,

and he has made some fine

records, including the start

of a highly promising *Ring*.

In Liverpool on Tuesday he

conducted the British premiere

of Erich Korngold's

Symphony in F sharp major,

a luscious piece of orchestral

confectionery composed 32

years ago in America (where

Korngold was busy writing

film music).

The symphony is a well-

made piece, as can be

expected (Korngold recorded it

a decade ago), well varied in

mood and texture, exigent in

orchestral bravura, full of

long, sumptuous melodies,

which begin momentarily

but pretty much the same.

Our heroine is already mar-

ried, betrayed, divorced,

the part name a

child of two substantial

children, gloomily keep-

ing house for Daddy in Virginia.

What you need, said Daddy,

is to leave the land of

Raintree County and *Go-*

with the Wind and go to

England, home of *Lillie* and

Jennie. The *Duchess of Duke Street* is

ideal for a boy to grow up in.

It's a magnificently

well-constructed symphony.

It's a masterpiece.

The energy crisis which began dramatically in 1973 altered the world as it had grown up in the post-war period. The seemingly inexorable rise in prosperity was abruptly reversed. Simultaneously, inflation ran like a forest fire through the industrialized countries and recession left millions unemployed.

Transcending even the economic revolution was the emergence of oil as a weapon of political blackmail. The industrial democracies saw imposed on them not only an economic upheaval but fundamental changes in their social cohesion and political life.

As the new decade began, world conditions of supply and demand shifted inexorably against the consumers. The dimensions of the change were not immediately apparent. The illusion persisted that one was watching a commercial bargain and not a revolutionary upheaval.

The proximate cause was the overthrow in September 1969 of the pro-Western King Idris of Libya by the radical Colonel Muammar Gaddafi. (It must be stressed that the price explosion was not a personal decision; one way or another market conditions would have produced a price explosion, though perhaps over a longer period of time). Until then the dominant role among the oil-producing countries was played by essentially conservative governments whose interest in increasing their oil revenues was balanced by their dependence on the industrial democracies for protection against external (and perhaps even internal) threats. Gaddafi was free of such inhibitions. An avowed radical, he set out to extirpate Western influence. He did not care if in the process he weakened the global economy.

The working level of the United States Government, especially in the State Department, operated on the romantic view that Third World radicalism was really frustrated Western liberalism. Third World leaders, they believed, had become extremist because the West had backed conservative regimes, because we did not understand their reformist aspirations, because their societies were backward and eager for change — for every reason, in fact, other than the most likely: ideological commitment to the implacable anti-Western doctrines they were espousing.

I did not, in Nixon's first term, take an initiating role in Middle Eastern policy. There were desultory discussions in the Washington Special Actions Group (WSAG) on what attitude to take toward the new Libyan regime. In a meeting of November 24, 1969, I raised the question whether to have the 40 Committee [The inter-agency committee supervising court intelligence activities] canvass the possibility of covert action. A study was prepared of economic and political pressure points on Libya; but the agencies did not have their heart in it. All options involving action were rejected. According to the bureaucratic consensus, our only choice was to try to get along with Gaddafi.

Whereas America was deciding on passivity, Western Europe chose actively to curry favour with Libya's radical ruler. As is often the case, decisions

The Sunday Times serialization from the Kissinger memoirs continues this weekend with When God Called Chairman Mao.



Henry Kissinger on how the West failed to meet the oil challenge

we were being told that some of our allies were asking for preferential treatment from the Arabs for having disengaged our Middle East policy. We could never confirm all these allegations but they were too numerous not to have a foundation. It was not one of the finer moments of allied relations.

The Opec ministers in Tehran on December 22-23 boosted the oil price from \$5.12 a barrel to \$11.65 a barrel — an increase of 123 per cent, on top of the 70 per cent October increase.

It is now obvious that this decision was one of the pivotal events in the history of this century. Even now, the domestic political implications are still working themselves out. What happens when young men and women leave school and college to find their skills rejected and join the millions thrown out of work since the oil crisis? The way is open for demagogery, political polarization, and violence.

As for the developing nations, if it was ever true that economic aid was necessary to prevent the division of our planet into the few who were rich and the many who were poor, if the maintenance of peace required us to try to close the gap, then the oil price rise worked marvellously to defeat these objectives. One's compassion is perhaps tempered with impatience at the quiescence with which they accepted the exactions of the oil producers and railed instead against their fellow victims in the West. This reflects either helplessness or despairing ideology.

Never before in history has a group of such relatively weak nations been able to impose with so little protest such a dramatic change in the way of life of the overwhelming majority of the rest of mankind. The poetic justice, if such it is, is that this "achievement" threatens their own stability, a perception that may be gradually dawning. Few political structures can sustain the accelerated rate of growth made possible by such an enormous transfer of wealth. Dislocations are bound to occur.

The upheaval in Iran in the late 1970s was at once a caricature and a warning. The overheated economic development made possible by the price increases provoked that rejected the very materialistic values that gave rise to the rapid growth; the end result was, ironically, the systematic impoverishment of the country. Nor is internal convulsion the only threat to producing nations. The economic enfeeblement of the industrial democracies may yet cause much of the oil states' material acquisitions to evaporate like a mirage. For a financial crisis in the West would destroy also the producers' investments in those countries. Or if the West proves economically unable to sustain the role of military protector in the Persian Gulf — or loses its incentive to do so on behalf of nations — systematically undermining the world economy — then many of the oil producers may become easy pickings for foreign predators.

The beginning of wisdom for an oil strategy should have been solidarity among all major consumer nations. That was prevented by six months of transatlantic tensions now magnified by the panic triggered by the price rises, production cutbacks, and embargo. No European government took up our offer of private exchanges on energy cooperation. They missed no opportunity to dissociate from our Middle East diplomacy. By December 1973, Opec put forth a demand

"leapfrogging" system between the Mediterranean suppliers and those of the Persian Gulf. In December 1970, Opec, emulating the Libyan precedent, convened in Caracas and formally requested new price negotiations between the majors and all the petroleum-exporting nations.

In effect, the oil producers were beginning to take full control of their oil. Too late the companies bestirred themselves. In January 1971 they agreed to what they had failed to do four months earlier: to bargain collectively and to resist selective blackmail by sharing oil.

Both producing groups agreed to maintain this level for five years — a solemn promise that must hold a world record in the scale and speed of its violation.

Opec put forth a demand

for "equity participation" in the companies. This was creeping nationalization.

Quickly, the negotiations on participation turned into a mirror image of the talks on price. An initial concession produced no agreement but escalating demands.

The market seemed to provide no ceiling to producer exactions.

And the companies were much more interested in raising their compensation than in diminishing participation.

For three years, a new

infrastructure had been elaborated by the oil-producing nations built on the weakness and irresolution of the consumers. Free-market theology had kept the consumer governments, and especially the United States, out of negotiations as the companies were rendered defenceless. Political demands had become mingled with economics.

When Western Hemisphere oil could no longer replace imports from the Arab world, the threat of a production cut-off by Opec suddenly turned into a crucial weapon. The October war put a triumphal arch over this structure.

On October 16 Opec abandoned the creeping increase of oil prices in favour of a dramatic rise,

and the Arab members of Opec, agreed to cut their oil production. These production cuts, whatever their political rationale, in fact sustained the higher price and laid the basis for even more dramatic increases.

The hesitant reaction of the consuming nations compounded their difficulties.

Their reluctance to cooperate with one another perpetuated their vulnerability, virtually guaranteeing a permanent crisis.

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WCIX 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

MUZZLING IRA GUNS

Since the days of the Fenians the United States of America has been a notorious source of moral and material support for Ireland, doing battle against the British. At some of the more crucial stages of hostilities that led up to the Treaty of 1921 de Valera found more opportune to work on the side of the Atlantic than at home. The Provisional IRA in its turn has cultivated Irish America assiduously.

At the same time the American law enforcement agencies have been having some successes in their watch on IRA gun-running activities, including charges brought by the FBI of a conspiracy to ship weapons to the IRA by four Irish Americans, one of whom was a director of Nasir. The case is now coming to court. One can only speculate as to the effect of these successes on the ability of the IRA to maintain its supplies of arms and ammunition from the United States. But the potential can be measured against the facts, or rather the estimates put together from intelligence sources, that half the weapons coming illegally into Northern Ireland in 1980-81 are believed to have passed through the United States, and that the proportion coming into the hands of the Provisional IRA from that source was rather more than half. That is much the most important source of supply. Next are thefts from arsenals, dealers or other persons in the British Isles; then home-made weapons; and only then weapons manufactured in the eastern block.

These set-backs for the IRA have been matched by similar reverses in both parts of Ireland. The Royal Ulster Constabulary acting on a much improved flow of intelligence, including that from informers, has made a significant number of arrests leading to serious charges. Arms and explosives in unusually large quantities have also been uncovered on both sides of the border. It would be tempting providence, and contrary to experience, to draw from these encouraging developments any firm conclusion about the IRA's operational capacity in the near future. The attempted murder the other day of the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland is a chilling reminder that a well-found terrorist organization can always strike so long as it remains in the field.

How long it remains in the field depends much on the degree of harassment to which it is subjected by the forces of law. It depends even more on the terrorists' will to struggle on, which is in turn governed by their hopes of success. The fact that people are informing more freely against the IRA is one that must damage those hopes. The new Irish government, when it is formed, and Mr Prior with his new initiative, when he is ready, have a duty to alert in what they do to anything that might cause those hopes to revive.

In El Salvador, too, there are hard-line Marxists among the guerrillas. But one of the main objectives of negotiations between the two sides in Central America, and it was almost always thrown on the side of the status quo. It is, therefore, hardly surprising that opposition movements have adopted anti-American attitudes, or even that they should sometimes look for assistance to the United States' arch rival, the Soviet Union, as Cuba has. This may be irritating or even menacing, but to see them as having been put there by some outside influence is to get the sequence of events in the wrong order.

In proposing a programme of aid President Reagan has moved some way towards rectifying American policy and that is to be welcomed. It is true the purely economic aid is very limited and may well be even more so once Congress has its say, and that its effects can only be felt in the long term. But President Reagan, by these acts, has recognized that the best way to counter subversive movements is to eliminate the grievances on which they feed. The need now is to carry the same approach into thoughtful diplomacy, away from indiscriminate confrontation and into mediation so that moderate forces may be encouraged and not forced to alliance with extremists. This requires acknowledging that the motive force behind the Sandinista government in Nicaragua or some of the guerrillas in El Salvador, are as much nationalistic as Marxist. In Nicaragua there is a leftist government with a strong Marxist element and it has lately been making moves to suppress dissent. But the Sandinistas still have a commitment to pluralism and to the maintenance of a large private sector. They are also anxious to have good relations with Washington. There is scope for discussion.

Mental health

From Professor John Gunn and others

Sir, We are psychiatrists working at the Institute of Psychiatry in London who have a special interest in medico-legal matters. A Mental Health (Amendment) Bill is currently before Parliament. It contains a proposal to set up a Mental Health Commission to monitor the treatment of those patients who are detained in hospital against their wishes because they are suffering from a mental disorder which interferes with their judgment.

Like the Royal College of Psychiatrists we accept that this is an appropriate development in mental health law at the present time. However, the Bill contains a clause (Clause 38(3)) which would preclude psychiatrists giving any medication to a detained patient or any diagnostic procedure involving physical interference unless either the detained patient consents to the treatment, or permission is obtained from a Mental Health Act medical commissioner.

This means that in some circumstances medicines such as anti-depressants, night sedatives, and the like could not be given by the patient's doctor alone. He would not even, on his own authority, be able to carry out necessary blood tests to check the safety of the drugs being prescribed if the patient accepted the drug but refused the test.

What will the effects of all this be? The doctor will lose control

of the treatment of his sickest patients. This could mean that a patient will get no treatment should the patient's consultant psychiatrist and the medical commissioner disagree, and this in spite of the fact that two doctors and a lay person (relative, social worker, or judge) may have already agreed that the patient should be detained in hospital for treatment.

Who will be responsible in law for such circumstances? Where will patients be able to obtain recourse for inadequate treatment? The consultant will be faced with either discharging a sick and possibly dangerous patient or detaining him without treatment, thus denying a disabled individual a chance of improved health.

Next there will be a massive increase in unnecessary bureaucratic procedures and a considerable diversion of medical resources from the provision of patient care to an expensive quango.

Worst of all nurses and psychiatrists are opposed to detention without treatment, believing that such an eventuality would turn psychiatric hospitals into prisons. If Clause 38(3) is passed staff will increasingly refuse to admit patients under compulsory detention, thus exacerbating the problem which successive governments have tried to tackle, that of persuading NHS services to accept and treat the difficult, disturbed, and dangerous patient.

None of these questions was raised in the earlier White Paper and consultation procedures. We do not believe that the Government or Parliament wish to achieve these effects, and we therefore urge the House of Commons to reject Clause 38(3) in its present form.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN GUNN,
PAUL BOWDEN,
JOHN HAMILTON,
DAVID MAWSON,
JAMES MACKEITH,
PAMELA TAYLOR,
Institute of Psychiatry,
De Crespigny Park,
Camberwell SE5.
February 26.

Patients from abroad

From Mrs Margaret Plowman

Sir, In a leader today (February 24) you point out the complicated and distressing problems that would arise from Mr Fowler's plan to raise £50m from six million visitors to this country, to help defray the cost of their emergency medical treatment. If he wishes to raise this sum, would he not be well advised to cut the Gordian knot and charge all adult visitors from the particular countries in question a tax of, say, £2 on arrival here?

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET PLOWMAN,
52 Felstead Road,
Orpington, Kent.
February 24.

Wormwood Scrubs disorders

From Dr J.E. Thomas

Sir, Once again a report is produced on the prison system which condemns the behaviour of uniformed prison officers. Your report (February 25) on the Wormwood Scrubs "riot" catalogues the same depressing list of staff misdemeanours. And, once again, concentration on the real issue—anarchy among staff—has generally been deflected by discussion around the usual irrelevant bolt holes, the records of the prisoners, and overcrowding.

Your Correspondent in today's issue (February 26) reminds us of the chronic failure of uniformed staff to obey orders, or sometimes even to obey the law. And the list could have filled one of your pages. The breakdown of discipline is so widespread and of such long standing that we forget how serious a breach is the refusal, as at Pucklechurch, to allow a member of the Board of Visitors into the prison: a person who is the representative of both the Home Secretary and the community and is entitled under the law to visit at any time.

This kind of behaviour, which, any governor will tell you, is widespread, is illegal and leaves out of account such acts as the vindictive stopping of visits on Boxing Day, which was described as "negotiated".

Perhaps the most important point in the Scrubs report concerns the behaviour of the staff after the riot. As elsewhere this demonstrates that the officers do indeed decide on how the prisons will be run. The prison governors, in their evidence to the May inquiry, asked for a strengthening of the discipline code. This was refused. But until this issue of staff caprice is faced we can only look forward to more law breaking and vindictive behaviour by staff and a consequent failure of our historic commitment to treating reasonably, not to say legally, those who are locked away.

Mr O'Farrell said that the governors are "in the middle". It is time that they were put back on top, and high time that the Home Office restored the authority which we in the community have authorised them to exercise.

Yours faithfully,

J. E. THOMAS,
The University of Nottingham,
Department of Adult Education,
14-22 Shakespeare Street,
Nottingham.
February 26.

Satellite TV

From the Managing Director of BBC Television

Sir, I am sad that Paul Fox has written a letter (March 2) so sharply critical of the BBC's application to run a subscription channel. He knows as well as I do that someone will end up running such a service and it will consist to a large extent of new feature films.

The BBC's policy will be to insist that these films are made available to network television, either BBC or ITV, after approximately the same delay as at present; and to ensure that any profit made from the enterprise will go back into television or film and not be diversified into other activities. In short, the licence-fee payer will gain from the BBC's plan.

Yours faithfully,
ALASDAIR MILNE,
BBC,
Television Centre, W12.
March 2.

The Romanovs

From Mr George Engle

Sir, The Romanovs evidently demand weighty tomes. Piers Brendon, reviewing Professor Lincoln's recent effort (February 25) describes it as "an American blockbuster which weighs two and a half pounds and packs a punch on every page". My copy of William Gerhardi's pistol-packing book on them, published in 1940 with the subtitle, "Evocation of the past as a mirror for the present", weighs all of 3lb 7oz and, though not mentioned in Michael Holroyd's piece on Gerhardi which you published in 1981, is (as the saying goes), as good as a novel, and certainly deserves to be better known.

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE ENGLE,
32 Wood Lane,
Highgate, N6.
February 26.

Lead in petrol

From the Director, Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, Ltd

Sir, I am responding to The Times's leader (February 9, "Poison in the air") where you comment on lead in petrol. In view of my position I have had to take an interest in this subject because of requests for information on the likely effect of lead-free petrol on car engines.

I must say at the outset that car engines can, of course, be made to run on lead-free petrol. If they are to maintain the same performance as at present, the engines will have to be bigger and they will certainly be less economical.

Present engines cannot run on lead-free petrol and will fail if it is tried. They also cannot run on petrol at 0.15 grammes per litre (g/l) unless the octane rating is maintained. It is for this reason that there will be additional costs in refining. But, and I emphasize this, both vehicle manufacturers and the petroleum industry can respond to these demands if they are laid upon them. From now on I speak as a father and a recent grandfather from an entirely personal point of view.

Sources of lead in blood are food, water and air. The water contribution depends, it seems,

'Dichotomy of values' on cricket tour

From Mr D. G. Auger

Sir, Once again controversy has erupted over a number of English cricketers who have gone to South Africa to work at their chosen profession. Their motives are almost certainly mercenary and have nothing to do with the endorsement of the notorious political philosophy *apartheid*.

I am appalled, not by the desire of any person making a living from a profession depending as it does on form and physical health to increase their gross earnings, but by the wave of hypocrisy that inevitably follows. After all cricketers from India, Pakistan and the West Indies come to this country for the same reason and actually play in county teams alongside South Africans.

There appears to be no disension regarding this anomaly or the fact that Britain and South Africa continue to enjoy very strong and mutually profitable trade links. This dichotomy of values is compounded by continuing sporting and trade links with the Soviet Union and her satellites, all countries in which the cause of human rights leaves much to be desired.

Afghanistan is forgotten and the war against man's inhumanity to man returns to the cricket field, so pale is the shadow of this once great nation that its failing is not sufficient for bad light to stop this ridiculous play.

Yours sincerely,

D. G. AUGER,
6 Courtlands Avenue,
Hampton,
Middlesex.
March 2.

From Miss Alison Davis

Sir, Your correspondent, John Woodcock (March 2), suggests the 12 English cricketers currently in South Africa are simply rewarding the efforts of the South African Cricket Union (SACU) to bring multi-racial cricket to South African playing fields. He chooses to ignore the political implications of their visit: it is so naive as to think that in South Africa sport and politics are played in different arenas?

The players may feel they are just playing cricket; the South African Government no doubt feels it has won a political victory. It will exploit the affair to point out to its own supporters that there is a good deal of sympathy worldwide for South Africa — and by that the Government means (however much the players themselves or even the SACU may protest) sympathy for the policies of apartheid.

Or perhaps Mr Woodcock can

suggest a different interpretation of the fact that the South Africans playing against the English team will all receive full Springbok colours?

Yours,

ALISON DAVIS,
41, Aysome Road,
Stoke Newington, N16.
March 2.

From Mr David Little

Sir, Amidst the furor about the South African cricket tour two things strike me. How strange that on the day when there is such a fuss in the House of Commons, the captain of the "official" rugby union tour should receive the OBE from the Queen.

Secondly, Mr Boycott's smile must be wryer than usual at all the talk of banning these players. When he turned down the money offered by Mr Packer was there not a similar threat? Will anyone give me odds against, say, Graham Gooch playing for, or indeed captaining, England within the next five years? It must be a good bet.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LITTLE,
21 Woodlands Road,
Formby,
Liverpool.
March 3.

From Mr Tony Hodges

Sir, I was sitting at home last night watching the news and the latest information concerning the outrageous behaviour of England's cricketers during their tour in South Africa.

I was so indignant that I took off my jacket (made in South Africa) and opened another bottle of South African wine. I even put down the British travel brochure inviting me to holiday in South Africa.

How can we possibly think of playing with people we do not know? Surely it is not British!

Yours etc,

TONY HODGES,
The Gazebo,
Clumber Road West,
The Park, Nottingham.

March 2.

From Mr John Hall and others

Sir, The move to oust Mr Jeremy Thorpe from his new job as director of Amnesty International may already have succeeded. The undersigned wish to record their sadness that an organisation devoted to the succour and rescue of persecuted individuals should even consider harassing and perhaps hounding out their new director before he has even sat at his desk and looked round him at the problems facing Amnesty International.

Yours fr.,

JOHN E.
WINCHI
JOHN BAILEY & WELLS,
PAUL HOBHOUSE,
Ansdorf Cottage,
Castle Cary,
Somerset.

February 27.

From Mrs Michael Noakes

Sir, Quite apart from the fact that Jeremy Thorpe was found not guilty, I always understood that amnesty was the pardon of past offences.

Yours faithfully,

VIVIEN NOAKES,
146 Hamilton Terrace,
St John's Wood, NW8.

February 27.

Canada's Constitution

From Sir Charles Fletcher-Cooke, QC, MP for Darwen (Conservative)

Sir, In his letter (March 1) Sir Anthony Kershaw misunderstands Sir Derek Walker-Smith's letter of February 25 and consequently misinterprets it. Nowhere does Sir Derek suggest that any finding by the Canadian courts can make an Act of the British Parliament "illegal". On the contrary, in his letter Sir Derek described such an Act as "an instrument valid in English law as the product of the sovereignty of Parliament", that being the principle applicable to this country as being a unitary state with no written Constitution.

The danger to which Sir Derek rightly drew attention was the possibility, if the Canadian Bill is enacted, before judgment is pronounced, of a conflict between an Act valid in English law and a decision of the Canadian courts relating to their federal Constitution.

Sir Anthony refers to the obligation of the British Parliament "to see that the Canadian request is a 'proper' request". But how can we know that the request is "proper" until the Supreme Court has decided whether the request was proper in accordance with the conventions of the Canadian Constitution — the very point to be canvassed in the proceedings in the Canadian courts?

To designate such litigation as either "frivolous" or "vexatious" may well be regarded as offensive by judges and lawyers in Canada and may provoke a very dangerous reaction in the Province of Quebec. Surely the wise and statesmanlike course is to await, before proceeding further with the Bill, the judgment of the Supreme Court, which is confidently expected before the end of the year.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CHARLES FLETCHER-COOKE,
House of Commons.
March 2.

Hot line

From Mr Barry C. Martin

Sir, Referring to Saturday's correspondence (February 27) when they are bad they are very bad!

January 8, we informed Telecom of our proposed move, on March 1, to premises only next door. It is now the morning of March 1 and we have no service at either our old or new premises.

Yours,
B. MARTIN,
Martin and Warnock,
3 Bromley Road, SE6.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

March 3. His Excellency Jonkheer Jan Louis Reinier Huydecoper was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Audience and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Court of St James's.

His Excellency was accompanied by the following:

Members of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to Her Majesty.

Monsieur A. F. Telemans (Minister Plenipotentiary, Monsieur J. W. Semeijns de Vries, Mr. Doesburg (Minister Plenipotentiary), Mr. G. van Beuskoop (Defence Naval and Air Attaché), Colonel N. F. E. Heesterman (Military Attaché), Monsieur C. F. Stork (Counsellor) and Jonkheer E. R. Coenraads (Counselor).

The Hon. Mary Morrison, Sir William Heseltine and Leader Adam Wise, were in attendance.

The Prince of Wales, as Chairman, arrived at Royal Train Station, the Royal Train, this evening to visit Gwent and Mid Glamorgan in connection with The Prince of Wales Committee.

This afternoon His Royal Highness presented the Marpower Services Commission "Fit for the World" Awards at the Recreation Centre, Bridgend.

The Prince of Wales, attended by Mr Francis Cornish, later returned to London in aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

The Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, in Chief, Royal Corps of Signals, visited North Ireland.

Her Royal Highness, attended by Miss Victoria Legge-Bourke, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

CLARENCE HOUSE

March 3: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this evening honoured the Treasurer (Mr

Hilary Magnus) and Masters of the Bench with her presence at Dinner at Lincoln's Inn.

The Lady Grimthorpe and Captain Alastair Ard were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

March 3: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, Master of the Bench, this evening dined in the Hall of the Inn.

The Hon. Mrs Whitehead and Major The Lord Napier and Ettrick were in attendance.

The Queen will open the St Luke's Leisure Centre, for Pensioners at 90 Central Street, London, EC1, on March 18.

The Queen will visit the Staff College, Camberley, and lunch at the college on March 19.

The Duke of Edinburgh, honorary member, Tiger Club, will attend the Dawn to Dusk running and prizegiving at the Royal Aeronautical Society, 4 Hamilton Place on March 16.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit the Design Council at Haymarket House to select His Royal Highness's Designer's Prize for 1982 on March 18.

The Duke of Edinburgh, president of the Westminster Abbey Trust, will preside at a meeting of the trustees at the Abbey on March 22.

The Duchess of Kent will attend a concert given by the Royal College of Music in aid of the Handsworth Old People's Housing Trust at the Merchant Taylor's Hall, Threadneedle Street, on March 17.

Corporation of London

The Queen opened the Barbican Centre for Arts and Conference yesterday as Patron of the London Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

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March 3: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother this evening honoured the Treasurer (Mr

C. J. Barber and Miss J. M. Richards)

The engagement is announced between Christopher John, son of Mr and Mrs A. C. Barber, of Macclesfield, Cheshire, and Julie Madeleine, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs J. F. Rickards, of Bwich, Carmarthenshire, Gwynedd.

Mr J. M. Calver and Miss C. Whetton

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs R. Calver, of 91 Lansdown Road, Gloucester, and Caroline, daughter of the Rev J. and Mrs Whetton, of Manningwood, Bruce Rectory, Pewsey, Wiltshire.

Mr S. F. Goff

The engagement is announced between Stephen, only son of Mr and Mrs S. F. Goff, of 101 Park House, Grove Hill, St Mawes, Cornwall, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs D. S. Erskine of Cleish House, Kinross.

Mr G. D. Williamson and Miss A. M. Caborn

The engagement is announced between Derek, eldest son of Mrs Ann Muir and the late Mr Graham Williamson, of Port Elizabeth, South Africa, and Alison, daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Caborn and the late Mrs Eileen Caborn, of Park Gate, Southampton, Hampshire.

Mr T. J. Poeton and Miss S. G. Walters

The engagement is announced between Timothy James, youngest son of Mr W. G. Poeton, of London, SW7, and Mrs J. R. Poeton, of Bristol, and Susan Gillen, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Howard Walters, of London, SE1.

Mr J. G. Clunes-Ross and Miss A. V. Vickers

The engagement is announced between the young son of Mr and Mrs J. G. Clunes-Ross, of Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Indian Ocean, and Alison Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Leo Vickers, of Winchester, West Sussex.

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Mr G. S. Whitmore and Miss S. V. Holland

The engagement is announced between Stephen Charles, son of Mr and Mrs D. C. Whitmore, of Hurst Green, Surrey, and Sally Vivien, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. J. Holland, of Westerham, Kent.

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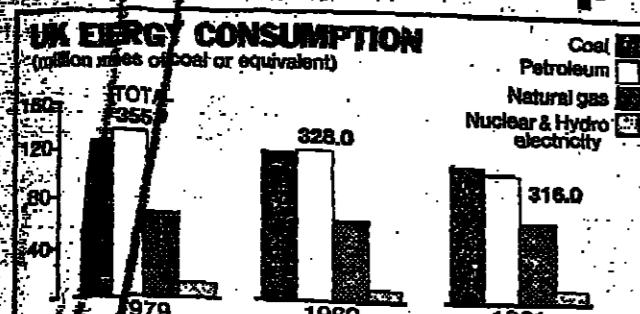
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BUSINESS NEWS

دعا من الأجل

Fuel consumption up



United Kingdom consumption of primary fuels was equivalent to 93.2 million tonnes of coal in the three months to the end of January, a rise of only 0.7 per cent on a year earlier. Motor spirit deliveries were down 6.2 per cent in the three months. Petroleum output, however, was 23.5 million tonnes, a rise of 8.5 per cent on a year earlier. Natural gas consumption rose by 7.1 per cent and coal by 0.4 per cent.

Drop in pension rebate

Members of occupational pension schemes which are contracted out of the State earnings-related pension fund will pay more for their pensions from April 1983. New terms announced yesterday by the Government Actuary said that the rebate to both employer and employee in a contracted-out scheme will be reduced from 7 per cent to 6.25 per cent. This means that employees' National Insurance contributions will rise from 6.25 per cent of relevant earnings to 6.6 per cent after April 1983.

More BL jobs lost

A further 200 jobs seem certain to be lost at British Leyland's truck plant at Bathgate, West Lothian, after JCB, the earth-moving company, said yesterday it was pulling out of the remainder of its £5m engines contract. The Staffordshire company has decided to standardize on Perkins engines. A BL spokesman said the news came as a great blow.

Carl Marks sues Russia

Carl Marks is suing the Soviet Union — Carl Marks Inc. of New York, is a securities company operating from that bastion of capitalism, Wall Street.

The company has filed suits in the southern district court of New York seeking \$618.75m (£325m) plus interest from Moscow over debts dating from the Russian Revolution. The case is being brought on behalf of some 3,000 holders of two debt issues sold in United States in 1916 for the Imperial Russian Government and repudiated by Russia in 1918. Due in 1921, the \$25m 5% per cent were payable in American gold coin.

MARKET SUMMARY

Gilts run out of steam

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 555.2 down 2.6
FT Gilts 67.42 up 0.11
FT All-share 321.49 down 0.34
Bargain 23,013

Investors started to batton down the hatches yesterday by paring their positions ahead of next Tuesday's Budget.

As a result there were a few sales about to see the FT Index end the day 2.6 down at 555.2, having been 1.6 higher at 11am.

Earlier hopes of at least a % per cent cut in base rates now appear to be receding with just four trading days left before the budget.

Oils opened steady, but lost ground after learning of Wall Street's nervous reactions to BNOC's latest round of price cutting for North Sea crude. BP closed unchanged at 282p and earlier gains among many of the others were curtailed. Shell ended just 2p up at 342p, Lusso 5p at 303p, Tricentro 2p at 189p and Burnside 1p at 177p.

Traders' full year figures were still received with the absence of rights issues also proving cause for celebration. But after touching 395p at one stage, the share ended the day with net rise of 5p at 385p.

Gilts also showed signs of running out of steam after the market's recent spectacular performance. Dealers reported a noticeable trailing off in turnover with no further indications from the Bank of England of the expected cut in interest rates.

COMMODITIES

Cash tin remained under selling pressure yesterday and closed 210p down at £7,080 a tonne, after reading £6,960 in the morning. But three months tin rose by 350p to £7,295 a tonne, producing one of the widest contangoes for many months. Much of the morning selling was again options dealers said. There was buffer stock buying in the afternoon. Mr Paul Leong, Malaya's Primary Industries Minister said that a meeting of all tin producers was likely to be held in Nigeria at the end of June.

Big purchases of lead by the Soviet Union stopped the price decline and pushed cash prices up by 53.5p to £33.7 a tonne. The from £34.25 to £34.75. Lead, up to 15,000 tonnes Soviet Union this month. London metal exchange stocks might not be released next month, but a bull market zinc prices went up in sympathy with lead.

Bid setback

Sketchley, the dry cleaners, suffered a blow yesterday in its first United States takeover bid for Means Inc., the Chicago workwear and linen rental business. A rival suitor, the Philadelphia-based ARA Services group, stepped in offering \$3.7 a share, valuing Means at \$46m (£25.5m) against the \$40.5m offered by Sketchley at \$3.3 a share.

Mr Walter Goldsmith, director general of the Institute of Directors, warned business leaders yesterday not to expect a recessionary Budget.

Mr Leo Tindemans, Belgian Foreign Minister, has again called on the United States, Japan and the EEC to improve monetary cooperation.

Emergency Opec meeting could cut prices again

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will hold an emergency meeting this month to discuss the world glut, Dr Mano Said al-Oteiba, president of Opec, announced yesterday. The move, which comes only a day after the North Sea oil prices were cut by \$4 a barrel, increases the possibility of more reductions in official world prices, with beneficial effects on western economies.

Dr al-Oteiba, who is also oil minister of the United Arab Emirates, said in Abu Dhabi that most of Opec's 13 members had agreed to the meeting. Some experts believe it could be held as early as the end of next week.

A meeting has been expected for some time, and the decision comes after two weeks of intensive diplomatic contacts within Opec. There was no indication last night, however, whether Saudi Arabia, the organization's largest producer, will attend.

Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan al-Nahyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, will visit King Khalid of Saudi Arabia today, presumably to press the Saudis to attend. The presence of the Saudis, who produce about 40 per cent of Opec's output, is regarded as vital if Opec is to make any real impact on the present turbulent world markets.

If the meeting is held, Saudi Arabia will be urged to cut its production to help maintain the present Opec pricing structure, based on a \$3.4 a barrel benchmark. Otherwise, Opec members

will feel free to press for a further cut in North Sea prices before the end of June, despite earlier reports that BNOC had insisted on a price freeze until then.

But it is understood that

the companies have agreed

not to reopen negotiations

unless the price of similar

quality oil from Saudi Arabia

and north African producers

falls by more than \$4 to \$5 a barrel.

By Ronald Pallen

There is widespread speculation that today's stock market debut of Fleet Holdings, Trafalgar House's diversified newspaper and publishing interests, will coincide with a raid on the company's shares.

A number of likely candidates have been mentioned including a consortium led by Mr Jocelyn Stevens, former deputy chairman of Express Newspapers; Mr Robert Holmes a'Court, Mr Tim Rowland of Lonrho, and Mr Robert Maxwell.

Mr Maxwell denied planning a dawn raid on Fleet. He however said that he still had bound ambitions to own a Fleet Street newspaper.

Meanwhile Fleet shares are expected to start dealing at around 22-23p against the stated net assets of 59p and a 20p par value.

Post Office chief predicts £80m profit

By Bill Johnstone

Profits on the postal service this year could reach £80m, Mr Ron Dearing, Post Office chairman, told a Parliamentary Select Committee on Industry and Trade yesterday. But he warned, investment was threatened by the Government's inflexible attitude to external financing limits.

The postal service is expected to return a profit of £70m, nearly £20m above target, and contrasts with the profit of £23.3m achieved last year, which was £20m below. Girobank will make up the balance.

Mr Dearing told the committee that the Post Office needed to invest £700m over the next five years. Through financing constraints, next year's investment would be £130m instead of £220m.

About £140m is needed to complete the mechanization of main sorting offices, £100m is wanted to replace inadequate or outdated sorting offices, £170m is required to adapt or replace buildings.

The remainder of the investment would be used to improve buildings and buy new equipment.

Government financial targets require the Post Office to return 2 per cent on turnover (after interest) on the postal side of the business. These targets expire at the end of this financial year and are being reviewed by the Department of Industry.

The Post Office claims that efficiency contributed to the profits, although it increased prices in February by 9.3 per cent. It intends to reduce its costs by about 5 per cent over the next three years.

Inland letters which, in 1981, contributed about 58 per cent of the revenue, would be substantially affected by the lack of investment.

According to Mr Dearing, the financing limits prevent the corporation using profits as required. He warned: "If such restrictions continue, the planned capital programme will need to be cut by 30-40 per cent. This could lead to a reduction in service and efficiency through the postponement of the completion of the letter mechanization programme".

Agency services or counter services which, in 1981, contributed 21.6 per cent of the corporation's profits, have grown in the past year and are destined for further growth. Income in 1980-81 for such services was £381m and is estimated to reach £439m this financial year.

The Post Office has abandoned a formula for charging government departments for these services and has had talks with the Treasury on a new method of charging.

Further discussions are to be held with individual departments.

The volume of inland letters has remained about the same as the previous year, some 9,500 million items. Overseas mail services, which made a profit of £1.2m last year from an income of £222m, are expected to show a loss this year of £2.4m on an income of £250m.

The Post Office claims that efficiency contributed to the profits, although it increased prices in February by 9.3 per cent.

By Peter Hill

British and Japanese government officials will meet later this month to discuss further industrial collaborative ventures.

The British Government is actively encouraging exchanges with Japanese companies in the hope of stimulating collaborative deals and improving manufacturing efficiency.

But Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Information Technology emphasized yesterday that the Government was looking to the Japanese to show greater initiative at the forthcoming session of the Anglo-Japanese Industrial Cooperation Committee.

Rolls-Royce is already involved in a joint aircraft engine project with three large Japanese companies, and more recently International Computers Ltd negotiated a deal with Japan's Fujitsu, under which ICL will market Fujitsu's large mainframe machines in Europe with the British company also gaining access to advanced micro-chip technology.

The emergence of France, Germany, and the United States as important manufacturing nations in the 1870 and 1880s allowed Britain from its hitherto preeminent position with the consequence that it expressed 20 years of depression.

Professor Hague referred to suggestions that the Western group ... cannot operate for long at tolerable rates of unemployment with real interest rates (after allowing for inflation) much above zero. As we move through the 1980s, I should be surprised if real interest rates do not fall towards zero again, Professor Hague said.

Addressing a financial conference in London, he forecast yesterday that the 1980s would see much greater exchange rate stability than in the 1970s. He could not see western governments relaxing their efforts to "squeeze out" inflation, through the use of high interest rates, for a year or two.

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UBAF

BANK LIMITED

Balance Sheet at 31 December 1981

	£	£
Share Capital and Reserves		
Authorised shares of £1 each	21,000,000	
Issued ordinary shares of £1 each	21,000,000	
General reserve	7,250,000	
Retained profit	99,746	
	28,349,746	
Shareholders' Subordinated Loans	11,102,403	
Total Shareholders' Funds	39,452,149	
Deferred Taxation	7,692,901	
Current Liabilities		
Current and deposit accounts	609,378,151	
Certificates of deposit issued	10,423,197	
Taxation	387,227	
Accrued interest payable and other creditors	17,977,216	
Proposed dividend	1,711,250	
	639,877,041	
	£687,022,091	

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement

The trading profit for 1981 was £9,323,378 compared with £5,756,384 for the previous year. The sum of £2,000,000 has been added to general reserve. The Board has recommended a dividend of £1,711,250 (9.25% on the share capital averaged over the year). The paid-up share capital was increased from £16,000,000 to £21,000,000 on 30th June 1981.

P.O. Box 189, Commercial Union Building, St. Helen's, 1 Undershaft, London EC3P 3HT.

SHAREHOLDERS:
Ubic Nederland B.V. - 50%
Libyan Arab Foreign Bank - 25%

Midland Bank plc - 25%

Ultramar: an excellent performance

Preliminary Announcement of 1981 Group Results

Summary of financial results	1981 \$ million	1980 \$ million	Increase \$ million
Sales	1,392.5	939.5	453.0
Operating profit before taxation	180.2	126.3	53.9
Net profit	90.7	74.1	16.6
Cash flow from operations	136.4	100.5	35.9
Capital expenditures	148.8	54.0	94.8

The Ultramar Group achieved record financial results for the year 1981 with sales revenue, profits and cash flow all being substantially higher than for 1980. The oil and gas producing operations in Indonesia continued to be the major contributor to the excellent financial results. We also had stronger than anticipated performance from our Eastern Canadian and Caribbean operations. Most of our earnings are in U.S. and Canadian dollars and the 1981 financial results have benefited from the strength of these currencies when measured against sterling.

In 1981 we began an accelerated capital expenditure programme and this will continue through 1982 and 1983. The major items in this programme are the development of oil and gas fields in Indonesia and the North Sea, the modernization of the Quebec Refinery, the construction of a modern fleet of oil-bulk-ore carriers and a world-wide exploration programme to find additional oil and gas reserves. Our financial position has strengthened considerably over recent years. Some of the projects in this programme are being financed by loans and others are being met from our own resources.

It is too early to forecast 1982 financial results, especially at a time when prices of crude oil and refined products are in turmoil and oil industry projections of supply and demand over the short term seem to be out of date almost before the ink is dry on them. Our return on invested capital for 1981 was 24 per cent and we have averaged

just over that for the last three years. It will be difficult to match the record results achieved in 1981, but we expect to continue to earn a good return on our investments.

An interim dividend of 5p per share was paid on 16th October 1981. Your Directors will recommend at the Annual General Meeting on 13th May 1982 that a final dividend in respect of the year ended 31st December 1981 of 8p per share be paid to Shareholders on the Register at the close of business on 8th April 1982.

The Report and Accounts for 1981 will be issued on 20th April 1982 and the Annual General Meeting will be held at The Savoy Hotel, London WC2, on Thursday, 13th May 1982 at 11 am.

ARNOLD LORBEER
Chairman
3rd March 1982



Ultramar

The British Oil Company

BUSINESS NEWS

CAPITAL MARKETS

Borrowing on the international capital markets fell to \$11,950m (£8,588m) in February from \$13,850m in January and \$14,790m last December. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development said in Paris yesterday.

The fall was caused by a drop to \$4,470m in February from \$8,610m in January. In compilations of medium and long term syndicated Euroloans to all the main groups of borrowing countries, OECD said.

Banco do Fomento Nacional, Portugal's state-owned development bank, has raised a \$120m syndicated loan from a group of banks whose agent is Manufacturers Hanover. The terms are the finest the bank has obtained: 5% per cent over Libor for the first two years and ½ per cent over Libor for the remaining six years. Among the other banks participating are Banco do Santo, Comercial de Lisboa, Banco de Portugal, IBJ International, Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan, State Bank of India, Arax Bank, Investment Company, and Chuo Trust and Banking Company.

The World Bank has signed for a yen 20,000m, 10-year Euroyen bond, setting the coupon at 8.375 per cent and issue price at par.

The first payment on March 12 will be listed on the Luxembourg and Singapore stock exchanges.

The Asian Development Bank is making a yen 20,000m, 8.2 per cent, 12 year public bond issue in Japan at 98.65 per cent. Nomura Securities, Daiwa Securities, Nikko Securities and Yamachii Securities were the managing underwriters for the bonds.

Occidental Petroleum NY, Curacao, will float a Fr500m, 10-year minimum 10 year bond on the Swiss capital market until March 12. Terms of the bond, which is guaranteed by the parent company Occidental Petroleum, will be published on March 8.

A group of 10 Japanese financial companies led by Industrial Bank of Japan have signed an agreement to provide Zona

Libre De Colon of Panama with credits totalling yen 11,000m. The credits will be used to finance developments of Colon City on the Caribbean sea side of the Panama Canal.

A Japanese Syndicate, led by the bank of Tokyo, has signed a contract to extend a Western Australia's State Energy Commission a yen 27,000m, 15-year loan. The loan, carrying annual interest of the Japanese long-term prime lending rate, now 2.6 per cent, plus an undivided margin, will be used to buy large diameter steel pipes from Japan and Italy.

Taiwan Power Co has signed for loans totalling \$365m over the last week and will seek another \$230m in the near future.

OVERSEAS COMPANIES

Overseas Union Bank, one of the big four "Singapore" banks, announced group aftertax profit rose 62 per cent in 1981 to \$39.5m from \$24.5m in 1980.

Singapore Government-controlled Keppel Shipyard announced group aftertax profit rose 31 per cent to Singapore \$9.1m from 1980.

Singtel, Amasron Express have tentatively agreed to acquire Robinson-Humphrey, a privately owned southeastern regional investment firm.

South African Breweries is obliged to issue 18,125,057 shares in partial settlement of the consideration for the 7,250,023 shares acquired in Edgars Consolidated.

(23.36m) from the year earlier and declared a 5 sen a share final dividend, bringing the total payout to 10 sen, down from 13 sen.

Praxis, the West German

BIDS AND DEALS

Contract Papers Holdings, a private company controlled by Mr C. T. Van Hoorn, has purchased the share capital and business of Howard Smart Papers. Both companies are based in London.

The deal is based on estimated tangible net assets of £4.4m. The combined business with a projected turnover of £30m in paper distribution will become one of the independent suppliers to the United Kingdom market, Contract Papers say.

The freehold interest of 36-40 Maple Street, London W1, has been sold, for an undisclosed sum, to the Black Arrow Group through chartered surveyors Simeon Gold.

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Praxis, the West German

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Singtel,

PEOPLE

Judge not,
lest ye
be judged.

Scribblin' in advertisements may be bad, but it nearly becomes good when it is about guitars, as least down below. Two Men, members of the Billboard Guitars Against Cheating Promotions (BAGA) were charged with smearing a Marlboro cigarette by writing across it. "Horses smell like BAGA UP."

Summing up, Mr Justice Foster said he had the "greatest sympathy" with the anti-smoking campaigners they were ordered to pay only \$35 (£20) apiece. George Coleman and Steve Hifford chorused: "You can't stop us from smoking but you can't snuff BAGA UP so quickly." Personally, I am not so sure that the wholesome message have had the last word. Stevenson said: "No woman should marry a scamp or a man who does not smoke." And what is smoking to a Chancellor, save a way of raising money. Remember the Roman emperor Vesuvius, chided for taxing public lavatories; he flipped a coin and said: "Money has no smell."

The one place that does without a bank is, I suppose, the cemetery, and along comes Lloyds Bank to help recycle the £15m City of London ratepayers kindly spending on reviving the 25 acres comprising the Barbican Arts and Conference Centre and known as the City of the Dead. Lloyds has in fact the only branch of a bank in the Finsbury, and to tell the whole truth, it is but a sub branch. Presumably, Sir Jeremy Morris, chairman of Lloyds and a director of the City Arts Trust will wait and see just how much conference trade the Centre generates now that just about every rival venue is grasping for business.



I suppose this will mean another run of Star Trek..."

Win the pools
for just £40?

A pocket calculator could hit the jackpot for a small Cotswold firm. Dutcherford of Cirencester, Gloucestershire, is about to market our first football pools forecaster, which so far this season is said to be consistently better than all other tippers combined. "We call it the Dartboard," explains Keith Lindley, Technical Director. It is something like a calculator. It can be used for betting of any sort, but is particularly suitable for the League fixture. It uses data that is available each week in the newspapers, but it also allows the punter to feed in his own hunches. We've already had quite a few wins!"

The forecaster is the brain-child of Don Wright, an ex-RAF navigator with a passion for playing games. Previously, he has been responsible for puzzles on the back of Kellogg's Cornflakes. Keith adds: "The Dartboard should retail at just under £40."

How kind of Keith and Don to grow rich by enriching others.

Maxwell sticks to hard Labour

How should millionaire socialists choose which party to back? Should they protect capital, and support monetarists (plus three million unemployed)? The hard Left as a form of Danegeld? Or either in the middle? Erstwhile.

Labour MP and saviour of British Printing Corporation, Mr Robert Maxwell, has just snubbed the SDP. Indeed he seemed yesterday to be falling for the Iron Lady's magnetic attraction. He told me: "You must give Maggie credit for getting inflation down. But I did not vote for her and never would. I'm a hard Labour man."

Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Sir Humphrey Pridaux has been appointed a director of Grindlays Holdings.

Mr R. N. Parsons, a managing director, has assumed responsibility for operations in the Middle East and Africa of Grindlays Bank Group. He succeeds Mr A. C. F. Thomson who retires from executive duties but remains a director of the bank and of Grindlays Holdings.

Peter Wilson-Smith

Why the big banks will keep their record profits

Three of the four big clearing banks have published their 1981 results and the figures are impressive. Lloyds Bank kicked off the reporting season with a one-third gain to £386m. National Westminster showed a 2 per cent rise to £294m and earlier this week Barclays announced an 8 per cent rise in year to 13.2 per cent thus reducing the windfall element, important though it still is. At the same time the banks have been finding that the proportion of deposits drawn from current accounts has been falling. At Barclays, for instance, current accounts contracted from 35 to 33 per cent of the British deposit base.

The record profit — considerably higher than 1980 results, which led to the windfall profits tax — might well prompt the man in the street to ask whether another special levy was in order.

The profits of three banks have reported so far total £1.447m compared with £1.224m in 1980 — an 18 per cent increase.

Midland is not expected to do as well as the other banks and some outsiders are even forecasting a fall in profits. But even assuming the worst — that Midland's profits are down from £232m to say £215m — the total profits of the big four would still show a 14 per cent gain to £1.665m during a year when much of British industry was facing the worst recession since the 1930s.

Dividends have also been raised sharply. Barclays has raised 1981 dividends by 19 per cent and indicated a one-fifth rise for 1982. Nat West gave shareholders one-fifth more and Lloyds a one-quarter.

But despite these very high figures the clearing bank chairmen appear remarkably relaxed and the general feeling is that the banks should escape from next week's Budget largely unscathed.

The Government, after all, made great play of the fact that last year's windfall tax, which cost the big four a total of £315m, was a once-for-all impost.

But on top of that, the banks would certainly argue that the crucial element which made last year's profits so politically sensitive is less in evidence this year.

The windfall or endowment element in bank profits, which arises from high interest rates and which provided the main justification for last year's special profits tax, has been falling. Historically the banks have prospered from high interest rates because a large part of the deposits are in the form of current accounts which do not pay interest to the customer although they now cost about 10 per cent to run.

During 1981 average bank base rates came down from 16.3 per cent the previous year to 13.2 per cent thus reducing the windfall element, important though it still is. At the same time the banks have been finding that the proportion of deposits drawn from current accounts has been falling. At Barclays, for instance, current accounts contracted from 35 to 33 per cent of the British deposit base.

In justifying high profits, the banks have also been at pains to point of the growth in their international business. Barclays Bank International, for example, provided £38m or the £44m rise in group pre-tax profits.

Lloyds also showed big gains on its international operations. The international contribution increased from 39 per cent to 47 per cent of profits before loan interest.

The slide in world oil prices has not come a moment too soon for many hard-pressed developing countries. Across large parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America, the combination of recession, high interest rates and declining commodity prices is taking a heavy toll. Lower oil bills will provide some respite.

But the benefits of falling oil prices will be far from uniform. In the space of a few years, oil production has risen sharply in many Third World nations which are not members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). There are almost a score of developing countries outside OPEC that are producing more oil than they need for themselves or are almost self-sufficient. Mexico and Egypt are the most notable examples.

But the list also includes Malaysia, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Angola, and Cameroon. Production in this group has jumped more than 50 per cent since 1978, and is expected to reach 5.6 million barrels a day this year — equivalent to about a quarter of all the oil produced by OPEC.

For this group of nations, the declining price for oil will be less than welcome. Their position is not very different to the high-population producers of OPEC, like Nigeria, Indonesia or Algeria.

For them, lower oil revenues will mean substantial belt-tightening. But, for another 80 or 90 countries in the Third World, which remain net importers of oil, lower prices will mean vital savings of foreign exchange.

Although many of these countries have been busily developing alternative sources of energy, like hydro-electricity and nuclear energy, the oil imports have not changed much in volume terms. Overall, every \$1 drop in the oil price will cut their import bills by \$1,500m.

Among the chief beneficiaries will be those developing countries that have been rapidly building up their industry. These "newly industrialising" nations — Brazil, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore saw their net oil import bills more than double between 1978 and 1980, from \$10,000m to \$23,000m.

The recent drop in the oil price will only go so far by reversing the previous huge jump in energy bills. But for a country like Brazil, which imports four-fifths of all the oil it consumes, any reversal is a welcome relief.

India is another big developing country standing to gain quite markedly. It produces only about a third of its oil requirements.

However, the overall effect on the Third World's current account deficit may not be all that large. The gains and losses among the non-OPEC nations may broadly cancel out. The precise outcome will depend on how various countries react. Those which may choose to use the unexpected windfall to repay short-term debts and build up their depleted foreign currency reserves. Alternatively, they may simply decide to purchase other kinds of imported goods, in order to speed up economic growth.

Among the losers, Nigeria is probably in the most difficult position. Its current account deficit has increased dramatically and its foreign currency reserves have slumped. Last year, its reserves were only sufficient to pay for two months imports in 1980 and more than a year's imports in the mid-1970s.

Mexico, the world's fourth largest oil producer, also faces serious balance of payments problems. Its current account deficit last year was nearly \$12,000m, some 75 per cent up on the previous year.

External debt has soared and growth has slumped. Two weeks ago the Mexican



WHAT THEY MADE

	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976
Barclays	567	524	529	373	295	198
Lloyds	398	290	277	185	173	148
Midlands	—	232	315	231	197	167
Nat West	494	410	441	306	241	188*

*different accounting basis

Nat West's international banking division also showed an improvement in profits before loan interest despite the continuing problems with National Bank of North America, although if financing costs were fairly allocated, Nat West's international gains would probably prove less impressive than that of the other banks.

Leasing is another area where the banks made bigger profits last year, but it has also had a big impact in reducing the tax charge of two of the banks to report so far — a fact which will not be missed by those who feel the banks should be taxed more heavily. The reported tax charge at Barclays, for instance, fell from £152, to £105m last year and that of Nat West from £92m to £57m.

Much of this of course relates to overseas tax and after taking advantages of all the reliefs available to them the banks pay very little United Kingdom corporation tax.

On the basis of 1980 accounts, for instance, the big four clearing banks incurred a liability for United Kingdom corporation tax of only about £56m. This excludes deferred tax, which they have provided for on the basis that it may become payable at some future date and is also after netting off relief for overseas taxation.

Rough guide though it is, it does bear out the point that the banks can greatly reduce their tax bill through leasing and — along with many other parts of industry — are not

paying a depressing effect on margins.

taxed heavily on their United Kingdom profits.

In their defence, of course, the banks point to the benefits they provide for industry with their leasing business by providing a cheap form of finance for capital investment. They also argue that much of the tax advantage they gain through leasing is passed straight on to the lessee in the form of lower effective interest charges:

One of the main arguments put forward against the windfall profits tax by the banks was that it would eat into their capital bases and impair their ability to grow. On this score the banks appear to have weathered the tax pretty well and they have not been constrained from paying much higher dividends in 1981.

Midland Bank may prove to have been the worst sufferer when it reports results later this month. The windfall tax came at a particularly bad time for Midland. Last year it went ahead with the big and expensive acquisition of Crocker National Corporation in the United States and its recent profits performance has been poor.

However the other banks have all emerged from 1981 with fairly comfortable capital ratios. Ideally of course bankers would like their capital bases to grow in line with their balance sheets but the fall in sterling against the dollar and other currencies has inflated the balance sheets of the banks.

Barclays, whose balance sheet grew by 30 per cent last year, and see its free capital ratio (which indicates the strength of the balance sheet) drop from 4 to 3.6 per cent. However, the £100m loan stock it is raising — it lost £94m through the windfall profits tax — will restore the ratio to 3.8 per cent.

An indication of the cost of the windfall tax of profits was given by Nat West which estimated that £14m of the £27m rise in loan interest last year represented the cost of additional loan capital to replace what it lost through the tax.

An important development of bank lending over the past year had been the big rise in mortgage business carried out by the banks, which are now thought to be providing about 50 per cent of all bank mortgages at the moment and has just topped £1,000m in mortgage lending. However, the impact on bank profits, although it will grow, is likely to remain fairly modest and probably has a depressing effect on margins.

had reserves which were less adequate than they were in 1975. In almost two-thirds of the countries examined, reserves were not sufficient to buy three months imports, which is usually regarded as the minimum amount. These included countries that were self-sufficient in oil or net exporters — like Bolivia, Egypt, Guatemala, and Mexico — as well as oil importers like Jamaica, Thailand, Tanzania and Morocco.

Taken together, the developing countries possessed reserves equivalent to 3½ months imports, compared with three months in 1975 and a peak of 4½ months in 1978.

The question is whether the developing countries can now re-build their financial positions as they did after 1975. This looks increasingly unlikely. One difficulty is that the debt burden is higher now than it was in the mid-1970s. Moreover, the world recession seems likely to continue for many months yet.

This will reduce the Third World nations' scope for exporting their way out of trouble (whereas in 1976 the world economy was well on the way to recovery), and in the longer term, it looks highly likely that the depression in oil prices will prove as transitory as in 1975, and to a lesser extent in 1978.

If the price resumes its upward trend, this will help sustain the increasing number of oil exporters. But if the oil importers have not got their finances into better shape by that stage, many of them will be in very deep trouble.

However, the financial position today is nearly as bad as it was in 1975.

According to the latest Amex Bank Review, the reserves of developing countries fell 15 per cent last year. Moreover, their debt repayments in 1981 exceeded their total bank deposits — the first time that this has been the case for at least five years. In short, many developing countries are financially extremely stretched.

In the meantime, it may well trigger off changes in the pattern of bank lending. One implication of a fall in the revenues of the oil exporters is that less money will be available to the banks for recycling.

Some oil exporters will be

reserves provide a cushion against a fall in export earnings or other unpredictable events. If they continue to fall, some Third World countries will have no alternative but to slash imports and reduce their economic growth still further.

Out of 30 developing countries examined in the Amex Bank Review, more than half

now have available on Prestel page 48146

Business Editor

Spotlight on the NCB

This government has got it in for the nationalised industries, remaining firm in its belief that they are innately inefficient and must be made to mend their ways.

It is not a totally unfounded presumption. Common experience and successive enquiries have shown corporations suffer most of the diseases of large corporations with a dominant market position. They also argue that much of the tax advantage they gain through leasing is passed straight on to the lessee in the form of lower effective interest charges:

As long as this is so, then the danger of this massed assault is that, far from improving the efficiency of industries, it will divert attention from the fundamental structural problems and gravely damage morale in the corporations.

One approach, furthered yesterday with the National Coal Board (and with two water boards to follow), is to refer the industries to the Monopolies Commission for investigation. Several, including the Central Electricity Generating Board and the gas showrooms, have been referred to the commission in this way, and the reports have been of higher quality than most of the reports on commercial companies.

There is no reason to doubt that in the Coal Board's case it will not also be useful. For too long the Coal Board has been regarded as a sacred cow that cannot be directly criticized. On the whole it appears efficiently run but there is no harm in its management being poor.

Alternative approaches being canvassed include a change in the structural relationship as proposed by the Think Tank. It is apparently gaining some Downing Street support. Under the Think Tank's suggestions, government departments would set up internal auditing bodies for their own nationalised industries, staffed partly by experts from the commercial world, and the industry boards would be reconstituted to give power to non-executive outsiders.

Parliament meanwhile is fiercely promoting its own preference for giving the Auditor General access to the industries and the Select Committees authority to review his reports.

Of course the drawback to all these suggestions is that such efficiency audits can barely touch the surface a corporation whose profit and loss is decided by government policy towards pit closures, electricity generation and subsidies. The fundamental questions hovering over the NCB — which is currently absorbing nearly £500m a year in subsidies — is whether the miners are prepared for pit-by-pit productivity deals, that would actually drop.

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BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

Printing makes money again...building reaches high

BPCC takes the grave out of gravure

contract to a United States company to computerize some of its encyclopedias; and today he will open a £3.5m computer for Pergamon capable of the same process.

The group has, in fact, done more than most to correct the chronic under-investment that causes the grave British industry to struggle against the more efficient foreign competition.

But clearly there remains much overcapacity and more closures and redundancies must be inevitable among the three major contenders: BPCC, Reed International's Odhams, Watford and News International's Bemrose.

Investment starvation aside, the printers have also been caught by rapidly rising costs, notably raw materials and energy, and by exchange rate fluctuations which, in the last year, have driven domestic customers to place their business abroad.

Printers in Germany and Spain have carried much of the high quality, long-run work such as mail order catalogues, while increasing amounts of more specialized work have gone to the Far East.

This has left BPCC's Sun Printers, for example, with mass circulation titles like *The Sunday Times* colour magazine and *Radio Times* as captive customers because their weekly deadlines make printing across the Channel impracticable.

It remains to be seen whether the new state of investment in computers and high technology presses, coupled with a willingness on the part of the unions to accept job cuts, will restore the industry's competitiveness.

But a significant fall in mort-

After two appalling years, house-builders look ready to make a modest recovery in the next 12 months as prices and volume pick up (Baron Phillips writes). Mortgage interest rates are under pressure and the historically high levels of 15 per cent are beginning to ease.

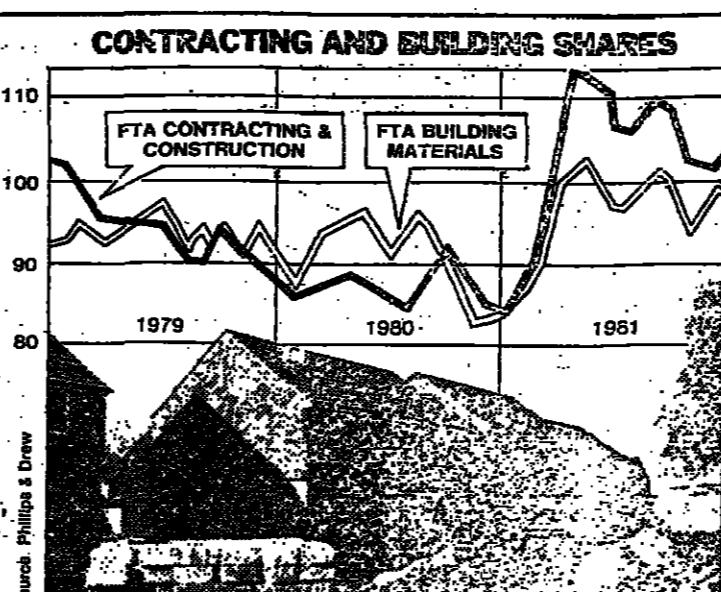
The stock market, perhaps in anticipation of this, is already warming to a more solid year and four building companies with a strong housing profile are hitting new highs — Barratt Developments, Bryant Holdings, John Laing and Newhardtill.

Barratt's aggressive marketing campaign has turned the group into a front runner during its current year. Analysts tip the group to build about 12,500 homes and produce profits of about £49m.

This optimism is founded on the belief that private sector housing starts are likely to rise to about 130,000 compared with 117,000 last year and that in the second half of the year prices will regain the momentum they have lost over the last six months.

Initially, volume builders like Barratt and Wimpey will benefit from a mild housing market upturn. Lower interest rates are likely to encourage more first-time buyers towards new houses. Both groups have been increasing their output for that sector of the market.

But a significant fall in mort-



Hat-trick gives gold lustre

Consolidated Gold Fields always has one or two rabbits to pull out of the hat. In the first six months to the end of December it was a combination of good manufacturing results from the United States and some fortunate currency and share dealings which stopped pretax profits of £67.5m falling further below last time's £70.7m (Michael Prest and Sally White report).

There was also the windfall of Newton's sale of its Conoco holding to Du Pont.

But Newconex is unlikely to do as well in the second half, and the gold price which so depressed the South African results looks worse than ever. Against that will be a better season for Amey Road stone, which suffered badly from the harsh weather, and full year dividends from Newton and Driefontein Consolidated.

Weakness in RTZ's share price yesterday was no reflection of the City's pleasant surprise at a profit forecast of not less than £100m in 1981 after tax. RTZ's share price fell with bullion.

World recession and high interest rates have depressed RTZ along with the market in metals. The high was £2.6p, against yesterday's 4.2p. For those who see industrial business picking up soon, it is a good reason for saying RTZ looks cheap. While analysts have been marking down its 1982 earnings per share to 50p, down from 58p from one leading broker, there is probably not too much more bad news to come.



UNITED STATES

Union leaders representing 3,800 employees of New York's *Daily News* have reacted favourably to a recommendation that pay increases due on March 1 be put in trust to try to keep the newspaper in business. Mr George E. McDonald, president of the Allied Printing Trades Council, said the union leaders agreed unanimously to recommend the plan.

Their lawyer said the pay rises would still have to be paid by the newspaper, but the funds would then be available to keep it alive.

• Braniff International said in Dallas that its employees will receive 50 per cent of their gross pay on Friday with the remainder to be deferred one week. A spokesman for the airline said the deferral, which was not a pay cut, would provide more than \$8m in additional cash flow during a seasonally weak period.

• Trade between the United States and the Soviet Union rose 37 per cent last year to \$268,000m, according to an analysis published by the United States Commercial Office.

MOROCCO

A group of Japanese and Spanish companies has received a 50,000m yen order from Morocco for construction of a large sulphuric acid fertilizer plant in Morocco. Mitsui and Co., one of the group, has announced.

Mitsui identified the other companies as Mitsubishi Engineering and Shipbuilding Company of Japan and Fomento de Comercio Exterior S.A. (Foces), Spain's foreign trade corporation. The plant capable of producing 13,000 tons of sulphuric acid a day by 1985 will be built in El Jorf Lasfar, about 2 miles south of Casablanca.

JAPAN

New vehicle registrations in Japan rose 50.8 per cent in February to 293,500 from 194,600 in January, but were down 2.4 per cent compared with 300,700 in February last year, the Japan Automobile Dealers Association said. The total, including 2,400 imported vehicles, comprised 209,800 cars, 82,000 trucks and 1,700 buses.

SOUTH AFRICA

A contract for an 8-kilometre overland coal conveyor valued at about £14m has been awarded to Cable Bel Conveyors, the South African subsidiary of Cable Belt of Canterbury, Surrey. The contract has been awarded jointly by BP Coal South Africa and Rand Mines.

WEST GERMANY

The balance of West Germany's trade exchanges with East Germany swung into a DM 221m deficit in 1981 from a 1980 surplus of DM 20m, showing the first such deficit for West Germany since 1965, according to the Bonn Economics Ministry.

CANADA

Canadian steel ingot output totalled 334,861 tons in the week ended February 27, up 0.4 per cent from 333,470 tons the previous week. But it was 9.2 per cent down from 368,759 tons a year earlier, according to Statistics Canada in Ottawa.

BRAZIL

One of Brazil's state-owned regional power companies, Cia Energetica de São Paulo (Cesp), is raising \$20m for eight years in the syndicated loan market, banking sources reported in London. The loan will help to finance hydroelectric projects.

NOTICE OF REDEMPTION

To the Holders of

Esso Overseas Finance N.V.

8% Guaranteed Debentures Due 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of March 15, 1971 providing for the above Debentures, said Debentures aggregating \$756,000 in principal amount have been selected for redemption on March 15, 1982 through operation of the sinking fund at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to date, as follows:

Outstanding Debentures of \$1,000 each of prefix "M" bearing the distinctive numbers ending in any of the following two digits:

17 38 59 70

Also Debentures of \$1,000 each of prefix "M" bearing the following serial numbers:

37522 37622 38322 39222 40322 41322 42322 43222 44222 45122 45222 46122

Payment will be made upon presentation and surrender of the above Debentures with coupons due March 15, 1982 and subsequent coupons attached at the main offices of any of the following: Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 30 Broad Street, New York, New York; Paris and Zurich; Crediti Romagnoli S.p.A. in Milan and Rome; Bank Mees & Hoep N.V. in Amsterdam; and Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourg in Luxembourg. Coupons due March 15, 1982 should be detached and collected in the usual manner.

On and after March 15, 1982 interest shall cease to accrue on the Debentures selected for redemption.

ESSO OVERSEAS FINANCE N.V.

NOTICE
The following Debentures previously called for redemption have not as yet been presented for payment:
14002 14507 14508 14504

Nervous selling

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 1. Dealings End, March 12. § Contango Day, March 15. Settlement Day, March 22
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Buchanan's
the Scotch of a lifetime.

BRITISH FUNDS															
SHORTS															
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849	850	851	852	853	854	855	856	857	858	859	860	861	862	863	864
865	866	867	868	869	870	871	872	873	874	875	876	877	878	879	880
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929	930	931	932	933	934	935	936	937	938	939	940	941	942	943	944
945	946	947	948	949	950	951	952	953	954	955	956	957	958	959	960
961	962	963	964	965	966	967	968	969	970	971	972	973	974	975	976
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CRICKET

Prime Minister warns of grave implications

By John Witherow

The unofficial England cricket tour of South Africa seemed set to continue last night despite a strong appeal from cricket authorities in this country to the 12 players to return home after a stinging statement from Margaret Thatcher warning of the international implications.

A letter from the Test and County Cricket Board delivered to the team members after they had started their first match wanted them to consider the implications if they could jeopardise the India and Pakistan tour to England this summer, thereby affecting county finances and the possible future livelihood of their local cricketers. The appeal made at St George's the English captain reinforced warnings that India would cancel its tour if any of the players were included in a test side.

Although the letter, which spoke of the "very strong reaction in England and other countries" to the matches, will and in the "strongly" considered by the 12 players, there was no change in their determination to continue with the series against provincial and national sides.

In his case, the tour manager, Peter Stooke, said it was too late to cancel. "Once this tour has gone underway, you can't call it off," he said. "So far as our tour is concerned, there is no chance of the tour being called off," he told reporters.

In the House of Commons, Mrs Thatcher went further yesterday in criticising the tour than she had at Tuesday, when her retinue personally to consider the prime minister's suggestion of the opposition in some of her backbenchers.

Her situation on Tuesday was understood to have been prompted by her desire to prevent the opposition taunting her with the news of her own right-wing, 50 of whom have signed a memorandum concerning the cricket tour. But the situation was complicated. She on Tuesday when Liberal Conservatives tabled their own motion stating that the tour was neither helpful, sensible or in the best interests of the game.

In a Parliamentary written reply to Mr Alan Robert, Labour MP for Cheadle, Mrs Thatcher said: "The ramifications of this tour could affect the financial structure of cricket in this country and jeopardise the future of multi-racial international cricket — it could also have implications for international sport generally."

She said that although it was difficult to assess how the composition of the party and the series of Test matches could only be seen as a major sporting link with South Africa. She added: "I deeply regret that the Government were not given the opportunity to discuss the matter beforehand."

Further Government pressure came from Lord Carrington, the foreign secretary, who said in Nairobi that the tour was regrettable and "the results of this will be damaging to everybody." If the players continue to ignore the appeal from the TCCB, their case will be discussed by a full board meeting next week, when a decision will be decided.

Perhaps significantly, yesterday's letter did not repeat the warning made last August that players' Test careers could be in jeopardy if they flouted TCCB policy by appearing for representative teams in South Africa.

But as this is at the centre of the Indian's threat not to tour, with all its sporting and financial

implications, it seems likely that some decision will be taken. The TCCB, however, had its fingers firmly buried four years ago during the Kerry Packer episode when it tried to ban some players from Test and county cricket.

As a result of this a resolution put forward yesterday by Northamptonshire, which in effect proposes both the English and South African players from Test and county cricket should be allowed to stand. Maurice Farmer, secretary of Kent CC, commented: "It would appear at first sight to be an extreme step in view of the likely legal difficulties involving a player's livelihood".

Yorkshire's secretary, Joe Lister, said: "On the face of it, the resolution seems to drastic, but I think it is

something that should be gone into much more deeply.

It was also no clearer yesterday who would be the 13th player to join the side. Derek Randall, tipped as a possible recruit and presently playing in Australia, was shown no offer and was instead asked to play for Northants until April 7. After his commitments ended in Australia he would return to Nottinghamshire.

The Australian Government has expressed regret over the visit by the English cricketers to South Africa because of the Government of Glengarry Agreement, a foreign affairs spokesman in Canberra said.

Every Australian first class cricketer has been warned of the probable consequences of playing cricket in South Africa. In a letter from the Australian Cricket Board last August each player was told that "particular care must be taken on South Africa may place you at risk your eligibility to play in the Test team.

Despite perfect conditions, the English batsmen struggled against the seam bowling of the captain, Adrian Kuiper, aged 22, of Western Province, who took five wickets for 22 runs in eight overs.

Only the English captain, Gooch, top scorer with 33, and Aziz, with 30, were able to handle Kuiper. Boycott partnered Gooch in the day's most productive partnership, 53 for seven in 66.2 overs on an easy-paced wicket and then scored 51 for one in the final period of the opening day of the two-day match.

Annis and Willey (25) put on 44 for the fourth wicket and then Knott shared useful stands with Emburey and Lever before Gooch declared shortly after tea.

The under-25 side got off to a

quick start, with Seaman hitting off 23 balls including three fours, before he edged Taylor to Knott.

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Recruitment Opportunities

ARABIC TRANSLATORS

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

will organize an examination for Arabic translators in June 1982 in Algiers, Baghdad, Khartoum, Geneva, London and Paris and in other centres if necessary in order to establish a register of qualified translators from among whom appointments may be made to vacant posts or for temporary assistance in the Arabic Translation Section of Unesco, Paris. A university degree and ability to translate from both English and French into Arabic and from Arabic into either English or French are essential. Age limit: 50 years; successful candidates beyond that age may be recruited for temporary assistance only. Applications with detailed curriculum vitae and photocopies of other evidence of degrees obtained must be sent to:

UNESCO (Place de Fontenoy), 75700 Paris-Room 2, 102. Letters should be post-marked before 15 March 1982.



The Children's Experience Centre

PROJECT MANAGER

Could you raise £1.5m capital in 18 months? The first Children's Experience Centre, an exciting new participation learning centre for young children will open in September 1982. We are looking for a Project Manager to set it up and raise capital of £1.5m. For this challenging role we require a person with a proven record of success. Write with full details of your experience, and tell us why you are the person for the job to Mrs. Rosalie Goldsmith, 26 Newgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1JL.

Architect for Management of Production Office in Interior Design

International interior design firm seeks bilingual French/English architect to manage their Paris office.

Candidates with previous experience of quality and substantial refurbishment in interior decoration projects.

Should be able to concentrate on management/production of presentation techniques, international tender drawings and specifications, coordination, programming and supervision. Should be able to communicate and coordinate complete projects with art directors/decorators and production offices for which he/she shall be responsible.

Age: 30-45.

Send C.V. marked confidential to: Mrs. Jabot, C/o Messrs. D.S.I., 200 Boulevard St. Germain, 75007 Paris.

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART, OXFORD requires a

DEPUTY DIRECTOR

A position of great responsibility in a small team running a major public gallery showing changing exhibitions of twentieth century Art. Previous experience essential. Salary around £7,000.

Applications by 15th March 1982.

The Director, MOMA, 30 Pembroke Street, Oxford OX1 1BP.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION, VICTORIA

STATISTICAL/RESEARCH ASSISTANTS

Vacancies exist for statistical research assistants in World Population Survey, an international organization covering 40 developing and 20 developed countries. Work involves assisting professional statisticians in implementation, analysis and interpretation. Candidates with expertise or training in demography or survey methods, and/or relevant postgraduate qualifications, are required. Salary £5,661-£5,924 p.a. depending on age, qualifications, experience and location. Apply to: World Population Survey, 100 Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AJ. Tel: 01-502 2022.

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BUSINESS OPENING FOR Graduate. Please see 1st Column, today.

QUALIFIED Personal Assistant, Accountant or Clerk/Clerical Accountant or Senior Clerical (49) - requires Personal Assistant to take over responsibility for at least a year, having been used to working in a large sized firm. Should be public school educated. Starting salary £1,600-£1,800 per annum plus allowances. Good opportunities for promotion. Please write to Nick Hollingshead, 197 Kingsbury Court, Kingsbury, Northants, MK11 1QH. Tel: 01-960 2007. Autoguide Division, May Park.

DRIVER/GUIDE TO WEALTHY VICTORIAN COUPLE. Work in Europe, not UK. Work part-time, as official tourist guide. Languages an advantage. Trainee required. Full/part time or weekend work. Tel: 01-343 2007. Autoguide Division, May Park.

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DRIVER/GUIDE TO WEALTHY VICTORIAN COUPLE. Work in Europe, not UK. Work part-time, as official tourist guide. Languages an advantage. Trainee required. Full/part time or weekend work. Tel: 01-343 2007. Autoguide Division, May Park.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

PARIS 16 Best location No. 1 BOUTIQUE LONG-TERM LET prior to be discussed 70 sq.m. 12 levels 70 rue d'Antin 75002 Paris

MISCELLANEOUS FINANCIAL THE FIFE REGIONAL COUNCIL £9,000,000 Bt. issued 3/3/82 maturing 2/6/83 £9,000,000 April. Tel: 031-300,000 and £4,000,000 Bt. outstanding.

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Bt. issued 2/6/82 maturing 2/6/83 £9,000,000 April. Tel: 0344-211,000 and £21,000,000 Bt. outstanding.

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS AU PAIR BUREAU Piccadilly Ltd. "World's largest in Paris". Offers to find au pair for £100 per week. Tel: 01-584 6534.

PUBLIC NOTICES BRITISH RAILWAY BOARD NO 15 IS HEREFORTH GIVEN NOTICE THAT CERTAIN TRAINS AND VEHICLES RECEIVED BY PASSENGER TRAINS ETC AND/OR LOST IN THE COURSE OF THEIR TRAVEL THE OWNERS OF WHICH ARE NOT KNOWN OR HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED WILL BE NOTIFIED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITHIN ONE MONTH OF THIS DATE. Applications for compensation may be made to the Secretary, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS, by 31 March 1982.

CHARITY COMMISSION St. Stephen's Guest House for Blind Ladies. Charity No. 2000000. Tel: 01-504 0332 maturing 2/6/82 £9,000,000 April. Tel: 01-504 0332 and £4,000,000 Bt. outstanding.

DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS BUSINESS requires full time salaried Domestic wiper for very active position. Telephone Simon 085 6640.

The University of New Brunswick is seeking candidates for the position:

DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF NURSING

Candidates should have outstanding qualifications and suitable academic and administrative experience. The position is expected to provide strong leadership in the undergraduate programme—in encouraging research activity and translating, and developing educational and supportive relationships with the profession and community.

The University of New Brunswick is the provincial university of the Province of New Brunswick. University students of approximately 5,500 are in the Faculty of Nursing.

Applications should be submitted to Dr. R. E. Burdette, Vice-President, Academic, University of New Brunswick, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 5A2.

For detailed conditions and application forms or other evidence of degrees obtained must be sent to:

UNESCO (Place de Fontenoy), 75700 Paris-Room 2, 102. Letters should be post-marked before 15 March 1982.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE CONVOCATION

The 24th Ordinary Meeting of Convocation will be held on Saturday, 3rd April 1982 at 4.00 p.m. in the Curtis Auditorium, School of Physics, King's Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.

The following may attend as members of Convocation:

1. Graduates of the University of Newcastle upon

Tyne.

2. Those graduates of the University of Durham who

were during their courses registered students of

the Newcastle Division of the University of Durham

before 1st August 1983.

3. Those graduates of the University of Durham who

were during their courses matriculated students

at Sunderland Technical College.

Members are cordially invited to attend; it would be

helpful if they would advise the Registrar if they wish

to do so.

Convocation may discuss and, if it thinks fit, make

representation on any matter whatsoever relating to

the University.

The meeting will be followed by a Lecture to be given

by Lord Swann and then a Dinner in the University

Refectory.

GRH/J/J/31.2

March 1982

W. R. Andrew

Registrar

AGENDA

1. Minutes

To receive: The Minutes of the 23rd Ordinary

Meeting of Convocation held on 11th April 1981.

(Copies have been circulated to all members.)

2. Report by the Vice-Chancellor

To receive: A report from the Vice-Chancellor for

the year 1980/81.

3. New Medical School

To receive: A presentation on the New Medical

School.

4. Graduate Society

To consider: A proposal to form a Graduate

Society.

5. Conference of University Convocations

To consider:

(a) Joining the Conference of University

Convocations (Subscription £20 per annum).

(b) Sending one representative to the forthcoming Conference to be held in Exeter on 23rd-25th April 1982. (Cost for one delegate is £30.)

6. Subscriptions

To consider: The introduction of a subscription

to cover University costs for administration,

printing, postage, etc.

in operation. Known as "The Network", is based in Liverpool and sponsored by the Merseyside Council for Voluntary Service. Membership is free and as with the Link Opportunity schemes, no money is involved.

The organization depends on the reliability of its members for its

success, and participation in the

scheme includes a commitment to a

small amount of time running the

office.

The skills which can be acquired

or exchanged under these schemes

have included gardening, music

lessons, vehicle assessment and

repair, photography, tax advice,

bricklaying, typing, painting and

decorating, language lessons and soft

toy making. A wide network of similar exchanges could prove to be a

a simple and cost-effective alternative

to conventional evening classes. It

would also provide a productive

outlet for the skills of unemployed

people who could take part without

sacrificing their unemployment or

supplementary benefit.

The theory behind these exchanges

is simple: members teach or pass on

a skill in return for one which they

wish to acquire. The scheme allows

them to pick up a wide variety of

skills at little or no cost, while putting

their own skills and talents to

profitable and constructive use.

The idea was pioneered by Age

Concern, who set up a skills exchange

scheme called Link Opportunity to

provide an outlet for the untapped

skills of retired people. It is now

used by younger people. New mem-

bers give their names and addresses

to the organizer, together with details

of the services and skills they

wish to acquire. The organizer

matches them with those offered by

other members of the group, and

arranges the two to meet.

There are as yet few exchanges

registered, but there is no reason

why local communities should

not start their own; the scheme is

simple in principle and requires little

money to operate.

If the scheme is run on formal

lines, it is possible to fall back on the

financial support of a statutory body.

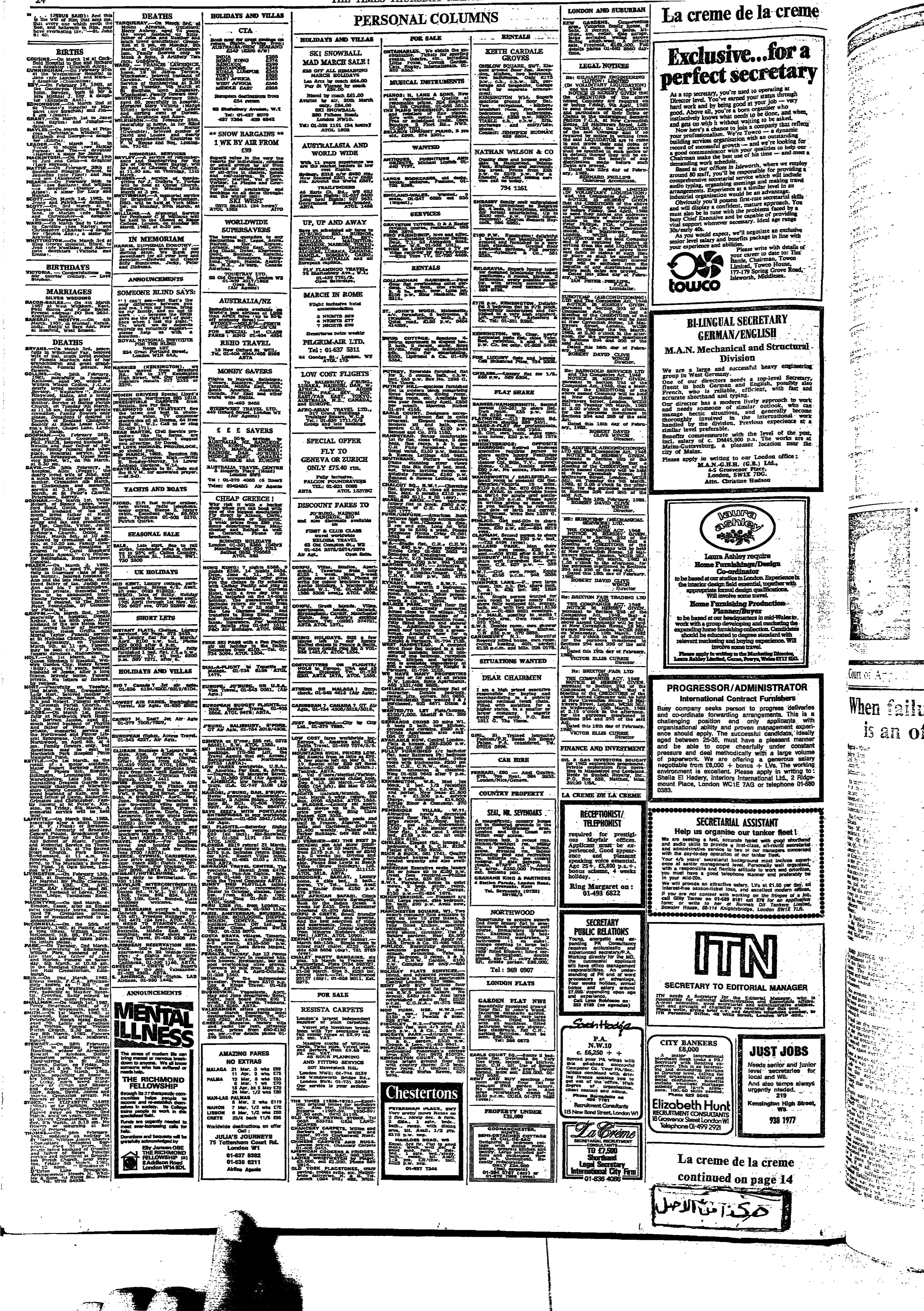
In October 1979, the Network

was offered a grant of £31,000 over

two years by the Carnegie United

Kingsway Trust, basic office equipment

is provided



BBC 1

6.40 Open University: Psychosexual Differences (2). Search and Rescue, Brick by Brick Ends at 7.55. At 9.05 For Schools, Colleges. 8.05 Brazil. 9.27 It's Your Choice. 9.48 It's Maths. 10.10 Science Workshop. 10.32 Scene (After the Goldrush). 11.05 Near and Far, 11.30 Search. 11.45 On the Rocks. 12.21 Interval. 12.30 News After Noon. 12.57 Financial Report. And news... Headlines. 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. National conservation contest is launched by Dr David Bellamy. 1.45 King of the Hill. 1.50 Brice-a-Brace. 2.00 You and Me. 2.15 For Schools, Colleges. Music Time. 2.40 Television Club. 3.00 Close Down. 3.15 Holiday. Indie's attraction; the Yugoslavians. Rowing pony training in Wales (v). 3.35 Play School (see BBC 2, 11.00am).

4.20 Pixie and Dixie: cartoon. 4.25 Jackanory: Bernard Healey reads more from Joan Eardington's Jonny Briggs and the Giant Cave.

4.40 Huckleberry Finn and His Friends: Episode 9. The murderer Indian Joe is at large.

5.05 John Craven's Newsround.

5.10 Blue Peter: Viewers are asked to design an ideal suit for Peter Duncan, co-presenter of the programme.

5.40 News with Richard Baker. 6.00 South East at Six; 6.25 Nationwide.

6.55 Tomorrow's World: A computer that works under water; a camera that does not use a conventional roll of film or cartridge; a new blood arm. And items on genetic engineering in farming, and making nuclear waste solid and safe. The reporters are Peter McCann and Kieron Prud'homme.

7.20 Top of the Pops: with David "Kid" Jensen.

8.00 The Kenny Everett Television Show.

8.30 Goodbye Mr Kent: The sorely tried landlady now has her lodger's mother on her hands — and in her bed. With Hannah Gordon, Richard Briers, Gwen Nelson.

9.00 A Party Political Broadcast: David Steel, on behalf of the Liberal Party (see also BBC 2, 10.45 and ITN, 10.00pm).

9.05 News: with John Simpson. And weather.

9.30 Showbiz: Another Man's Castle. Another in this series about a crime reporter working for a West Country radio station.

Tonight, Shoestring (Trevor Eve) goes into action after a removal van, full of furniture, is stolen from a motorway service station. Co-starring Michael Medwin (as the radio station manager), Doran Godwin and Liz Crowther, with John Forgeham as guest actor (r).

10.25 Question Time: Robin Bay is again in the chair as an audience puts questions to Peter Shore; Anna Coote, the women's rights champion; Lord Gowrie, Minister of State for Northern Ireland; and Bonnie Angelo, of Time Life magazine.

11.25 Party Come's Bahamas Holiday: A second screening of this sun-soaked entertainment which features a host of Bahamian artists including Captain and Tennille with King Bonaparte and his steel drum band; Loretta Swit, and the Royal Bahamas Police Force Band (r).

12.10 Weather forecast.

BBC 2

Open University: From Petroleum to Polyethylene; 7.05 Levels of Meaning: 7.20 Geophysical Techniques. Ends at 7.45am; At 11.00 Play School: Geoff Nichol's story-Tell Compost Heap. The presenters are Chris Aspinwall and Brian Clegg. 7.125 Closedown. Nothing then at 8.35. Muggenridge: Ancient and Modern. Penultimate film in this biographical series consisting of a running interview and highlights from TV films in which Muggenridge has appeared. Today: the period covered is from 1970 to 1978. Stories: Heroes and Heroines, A Satire Satiated, and Muggenridge in Wex (v).

4.50 Caught in Time: Amateur film of past life in St Boswells in the Scottish Lowlands (v).

5.10 Charles Rennie Mackintosh: The house (High House) that Mackintosh built for Glasgow publisher Walter Blackie in 1902 (v).

5.40 Laurel and Hardy: Their First Mistake* (1932). A baby is adopted.

6.00 All creatures Great and Small: Slaughter by poacher (v).

6.55 County Hall: Local government serial. Who leaked a report to the Press? 7.20 News: with sub-titles.

7.25 History on Your Doorstep: (See Choice).

7.50 The Shogun Inheritance: Ritualistic tea drinking in Japan (v).

8.30 Russell Harty: with the evangelist Billy Graham and David Essex.

9.00 Call My Bluff: Tonight's players: Frank Muir, Liza Goddard, Hugh Leonard, Arthur Marshall, Eve Pollard and Richard Stilgoe. The MC is Robert Robinson.

9.30 Forty Minutes Saved in the Nick of Time: How Nick Mead gets ahead of the demolition squads and saves bits of Britain for posterity.

10.10 Kyung-Wha Chung Plays Bach: Specifically, she plays Bach's Concert for violin and strings in E Major (BWV 1042) with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra. We also hear the overture and minuet from Handel's Ode for St Cecilia's Day.

10.45 Party Political Broadcast: by David Steel, the Liberal leader.

11.30 The Old Grey Whistle Test: The featured group is Japan (Tim Drum is their latest LP.) Also The Thompson Twins (Tom Bailey, Pete Dodd and John Roop), formed in 1977. Ends at 12.15am.

12.15 Close: Wynford Vaughan Thomas on the art of being Welsh.

ITV/LONDON

9.30 For Schools: Physics in Action. (9.30); My World. (9.52); Seeing and Doing. (10.09); Geography Today. (10.28); Biology A-level. (10.48); Basic Maths. (11.05); Tubes and Tunnels. (11.22); Middle English. (11.39); 12.00 The Woofits: The Special Offer. 12.10 Get up and Go! with Beryl Reid; 12.30 The Saltwifes: Australian family saga, set in the last war; 1.00 News from ITN. 1.20 Thame news; 1.30 Take the High Road: Scottish estate serial; 2.00 Afternoon Plus: The case histories of several people addicted to tranquilizers, with Dr Peterson of the Institute of Psychiatry. 2.45 Snooker: Fourth day of the Yamaha Organs Trophy, broadcast five from the Assembly Rooms in Derby. Highlights of the day's play can be seen at 10.35 tonight.

4.15 Dr Snuggles: the inventor with Peter Ustinov's voice (v). 4.20 Little House on the Prairie: a kidnapping plot in Walnut Grove.

5.15 Emmerdale Farmers: More about Joe Sugden's application for the estate manager job.

5.45 News from ITN. 6.00 Thames area news; 6.30 Thames Sport: national and international coverage.

7.00 Does the Team Think?: The public puts questions to a team of laughter makers, not expecting a serious reply — and not getting one. With Beryl Reid, Jimmy Edwards, Frank Howarth, William Rushton and Tim Brooke-Taylor. Guest questioner: Geoff Capes.

7.30 Rising Damp: Comedy series, set in a lodging house run by the disreputable Rigby (Leonard Rossiter). Tonight: he attempts an act of heroism (v).

8.00 Falcon Crest: Drama serial, set in California wine country, and starring Jane Wyman. Tonight: Chase (Robert Foxworth) is in deep financial trouble.

9.00 Shelley: Comedy series starring Hywel Bennett as the penniless layabout and Belinda Sinclair as his wife. Set without a job; Shelley sets his face against adversity and takes his wife out to the cinema and the local pub.

9.30 TV Eye: Fighting for the Universities. The cash cuts which threaten both staff and students. The focus is on Stirling in Scotland, one of the worst hit areas. Its graft has been cut by 27 per cent. A report by Denis Tooley.

10.00 A Party Political Broadcast by David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party.

10.05 News from ITN. And Thames news headlines.

10.35 Snooker: The best of the action from today's Yamaha Organs Trophy tournament in Derby.

12.00 What the Papers Say: A review of what the Press has had to say during the past week. The presenter tonight is Godfrey Hodgson.

12.15 Close: Wynford Vaughan Thomas on the art of being Welsh.

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing. 6.20 Farming Today. 6.22 Today in Parliament. 6.23 Yesterday in Parliament. 6.27 Weather and Travel. 6.29 News. 6.30 Checkpoint.

6.30 The Living World... and Beyond: Investigates the possibilities of where life is elsewhere in the Universe.

10.02 Town Hall Rules OK? (new series) Nigel Rees finds out how local government works.

10.30 My Service.

10.45 Story Time: "Butter Cookies" by Jo Goll.

11.00 News and Travel.

11.05 File on 4.

11.20 Enigma: Wilf.

12.00 News.

12.27 Year and Yours.

12.27 Brain of Britain 1982 (v).

12.25 Weather and Travel and Programme News.

1.00 The World at One.

1.40 The Archers.

2.02 Women's Hour.

3.00 News and Travel.

3.02 Play: "The Garden" by Bob Eaton (v).

4.00 Home Base: People and places that don't always make the headlines.

4.45 Bookshelf.

4.45 Story Time: "West Fargo" by Harry Seacombe (3).

5.00 PM: Newsround.

5.25 Weather and Programme News.

6.00 News and Financial Report.

6.20 Any Answers?

6.25 It's a Bargain.

7.00 The Archers.

7.20 Time for Verse.

7.30 Kaleidoscope.

8.00 Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra Concert: Part I: Greig, Holst, Sibelius.

8.50 Of Ships and Sealings-Wax (Part 2): Simonoff discusses the economy of Northern Island.

9.10 Crossroads.

9.20 Weather.

10.00 The World Tonight: News.

11.00 A Book at Bedtime: "Confederacy of Dunces" by John Kennedy Toole (9).

4.55 News.

11.15 The Financial World Tonight.

12.00 Today in Parliament.

VHF as above except as follows: 6.25-6.30 Weather and Travel. 9.05 For Schools. 10.30-10.45 Listen with Mother. 11.00-12.00 For Schools. 1.00 News. 2.00-3.00 For Schools. 5.55-5.55 (continued). 4.00 Study on 4. 11.30-12.10 am Open University.

11.50 Mainly for Pleasure.

7.00 Shoalswick Chamber Music.

8.00 The Making of British Policy 1782-1982. Michael Howard, Regius Professor of Modern History, University of Oxford, gives the first of a series of lectures to mark the bicentenary of the French and Commonwealth War Office.

9.00 BBC Northern Symphony Orchestra Concert: Tchaikovsky: Brahms.

10.20 On the Levitation al St. Michael's by Carter-Harrison (v).

11.00 News.

11.05 Carnival of Flowers. Hans Werner Henze on record.

VHF only 5.55-6.55 am and 11.20 pm-1.00 am Open University.

Radio 3

6.55 Weather.

7.00 News.

7.05 Morning Concert: Boyce, Saint-Saens, Schubert, Dvorak; records.

9.05 This Week's Composer: Beethoven; records.

10.00 Good Word. 9.25-9.30 Listen with Mother. 10.30-11.00 Listen with Mother. 11.00-11.30 Listen with Mother.

11.00-11.30 Listen with Mother.

12.00 Listen with Mother.

1.00 Listen with Mother.</p

New sponsorship deals with tobacco industry

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

The Government has concluded two more voluntary agreements with the tobacco industry, on sports sponsorship and general advertising, despite protests by health groups that such agreements do not curb advertising.

The agreement on sports sponsorship allows the amount of money spent by the industry on prize money to rise from £4.5m to £6m as disclosed in *The Times* last month. All advertisements for tobacco sponsored events, however, will have to carry a health warning.

Under the second agreement, the industry has promised to spend £3m a year on independent research into health promotion and to agree to some, as yet undetermined, further restrictions on advertising.

Both agreements were concluded yesterday by the British Medical Association and Action on Smoking and Health (Ash). The Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh are to meet to decide what concerted action to take.

Mr Neil Macfarlane, Minister for Sport, announced the new agreement on sports sponsorship in Parliament yesterday in answer to a question from Sir Edward Morris, Conservative MP for Doncaster, and a former minister for sport. He said the agreement would run for four years until at least December 31, 1985 and that the existing expenditure ceiling, the actual expenditure in 1976 adjusted for inflation, would be maintained.

Government health warnings are to appear on press and poster advertising for sponsored sporting activities and the industry is to inform the Minister for Sport of any changes in their sponsorship plans. The companies will have to consult the Minister if they want to sponsor any sport not previously sponsored and will not be allowed to sponsor any in which most of the participants are under 18.

The agreement is a snub for Britain's top medical men, since the presidents of all four royal medical colleges wrote to the Minister for Sport in December, calling for an end to sports sponsorship. They said that such sponsorship evaded the ban on smoking in hospitals, and publicity programmes of the sponsored events,

which carried large poster displays, were televised.

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced in January the new voluntary agreement on advertising. Health groups were disappointed that another voluntary agreement was concluded because when Mr Patrick Jenkins, former Secretary of State for Social Services, announced the last one 14 months ago, it was thought that it might be followed by legislation banning advertising. Mr Jenkins said that if a private member's Bill was introduced to effect the Government would not oppose it.

Mr Fowler said that the £3m to be spent by the industry on health promotion would be spent on research projects chosen by a working group later this year. The tobacco industry had confirmed that the new agreement on advertising would cover further restrictions and better presentation of the health warning.

A spokesman for the British Medical Association said yesterday: "We deplore this tacit cooperation in the advertising of a product that is causing massive ill health." Mr David Simpson, director of Ash, said:

"This is a black day for health. The strongest plea from the very top of the medical profession has been swayed aside in favour of giving cigarette pushers what they want. How on earth can health ministers hope to reduce the epidemic of disease and death caused by smoking if their colleagues in other government departments are pulling in the opposite direction?"

The new rule about health warnings on advertising for sponsored events is the one victory for the health department. It is a clear admission that tobacco sponsorship really is just the way of cheating the restriction on ordinary cigarette advertising."

Mr Simpson said that a single extra penny on a packet of cigarettes could provide ten times as much money for sport as that spent by the tobacco industry.

□ A guide to persuade health authorities to take up the antismoking cause has been launched by Action on Smoking and Health (Ash). It suggests that all health authorities adopt a policy to include advice for health staff and patients about giving up smoking, a ban on smoking in hospitals, and publicity programmes

of pounds in profits from the Department of Health and Social Security by recouping cash on cut-price lenses, often cheap foreign imports, at standard rates, the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee was told last night.

Sir Kenneth Stowe, Permanent Secretary at the department, said a full inquiry into the system of reimbursement was to be carried out this year.

But the department had no legal powers to demand the return of the cash, estimated at £6m,

given to Mr Chernenko's

award on his seventieth birthday than to Mr Kirilenko's lesser award on his seventieth birthday one month previously.

Another twist to the story, where fresh and contradictory rumours are being spread every day, is the unexplained slaying of General Tsvigun on his unexpected death. Mr Brezhnev did not sign the official obituary, a deliberate breach of protocol. General Tsvigun was not buried at Novodevichy where all senior party officials of similar rank are interred and a large delegation headed by a former friend and colleague, Mr Gaidar Aliyev, the party secretary of Azerbaijan, was apparently told they

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Moscow rife with rumours

President Reagan wearing a cowboy hat given to him by a schoolgirl before addressing a rally at Cheyenne, Wyoming. The President defended his budget proposals and promised there would be no retreat on his economic policies. (Page 6)

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